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SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 258 | SEPTEMBER 14, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

After you buy a new computer, what do you do with the old one?

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2 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

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Paint Job
Decorative painter Sunny Goode's goal has always been to get more people painting.

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A monster-sized Hurricane Ike bore down on the Texas coast late Friday.

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Up Close
Daniel Radcliffe talks about Alan Strang, the troubled young man he plays in "Equus."

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Right now it's like all hell is breaking lose, and no one knows which bus to use. The schedule we set, we're going against [it]. There's just a lot of confusion.

—Steven M. Pangelinan, PSS bus team leader

PSS down to nine buses

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Oleai Elementary School students look through the window of their school bus before departing the school premises.

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Public School System was down to operating with nine buses this week, forcing drivers to make three or four trips in order to accommodate students in all villages.

The PSS Pupil Transportation Division started the week with 12 buses, but three went down mid-week, PSS bus team leader Steven M. Pangelinan said yesterday.

"This is hell week for us," he said.

Last year PSS started the year with 15 buses.

See PUBLIC on Page 4

'There should be no more outages'

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Due to some technical adjustments, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. received only eight of the 13 megawatts from the Aggreko generators through yesterday afternoon, but the additional megawatts were expected to go online by the end of the evening.

"We anticipate to start bring-

See AGGREKO on Page 4

A crewmember checks the lines connecting the emergency Aggreko generators to the power grid Friday afternoon in Lower Base, just before Gov. Benigno Fitial turned the switch on.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Poll: Whites lift McCain to slim lead over Obama

AMERICA VOTES

By ALAN FRAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—An overwhelming advantage in experience and lopsided sup-

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APPLICATION OF STAFFORD ACT

'Yes, it does'; 'No, it doesn't'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Washington Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio is insisting that the Commonwealth is eligible for help with its power problems under a federal emergency aid law.

Contrary to a statement by a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Ad-

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ACT to board: Loosen HQT requirements. **PAGE 2**
Diabetes summit ends with several goals set. **PAGE 3**

Around the CNMI

ACT to board: Loosen HQT requirements

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By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Association of Commonwealth Teachers is going to ask the Public School System Board of Education to reconsider the requirements set for Highly Qualified Teachers.

Under the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act, all teachers must be highly qualified by 2010. The NCLB act defines highly qualified as: holding a bachelor's degree, meeting state certification requirements, and passing a state-approved teacher test. The Public School System decided to adopt the PRAXIS I and II exams as the state-approved tests.

PSS also decided that teachers who do not pass the PRAXIS exams will get a reduction in pay to a first year teacher's salary, regardless of the years they have worked within the school system.

ACT president Betty Miller said the organization is concerned the test scores set by PSS were in comparison to U.S. states, while many of the teachers within the school system speak English as a second language and did not attend U.S.-based education institutions.

Some of the information on the tests is based on information that is learned in elementary or high school, Miller said.

"Yet we're asking [non-U.S. teachers] to take the exams and compete with Americans," she said. "If they weren't qualified, why were they able to teach here for so long?"

Similar questions were raised in a September 2007 report prepared by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

"The basic criteria of No Child Left Behind for highly qualified teachers may not themselves clearly identify effective teachers. So what makes a teacher effective?" the report said. It states, that through research, it has been found that a teacher's content knowledge, teaching experience, and training and credentials are indicators for a teacher's effectiveness.

Miller said that when the Board was setting the HQT qualification standards, teachers were informed federal funding would be reduced if the district did not follow the requirements set under the No Child Left Behind Act.

However, according to the report, requirements under the act have not been mandated for the jurisdictions within the Pacific region.

"So, there are no funding ramifications of violating requirements for highly qualified teachers," the report, titled Preparing and Licensing High Quality Teachers in Pacific Region Jurisdictions, states.

Guam and the CNMI have adopted similar requirements to those in the NCLB Act for highly qualified teachers, "though they are not strictly held to them," according to the report.

In 2005, then Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos was reported to have told Sen. Paul Manglona through a letter that PRAXIS is both a local and national requirement. Manglona had written to Inos seeking clarification on the requirements.

Miller said she has no problem with the Board of Education setting high standards for teachers, but feels PSS did not disclose the information fully when they decided to adopt the HQT requirements in 2006.

"If the Board had just been open in the beginning and said 'look we have highly qualified teachers and want high standards' that would have been OK…but the tone was set differently," she said. "It feels like it was a betrayal."

Miller said she wants to look into a House plan that would qualify veteran teaches under the NCLB Act. Although she has been advised by the U.S. Department of Education it is not recommended at such a late date, there is nothing stopping the CNMI to adopt such a measure.

To date, approximately 68 percent of the more than 500 PSS teachers have been deemed highly qualified.

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Diabetes summit ends with several goals set

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

During this week's first annual Pacific Region Diabetes Summit, representatives from various groups within the CNMI set physical activity and data collection as priorities in the ongoing effort to prevent diabetes.

CNMI representatives, made up of private clinic doctors, Public Health Department employees, Public School System employees, Diabetes Coalition members and other stakeholders, are concentrating on preventative measures, Lynn Tenorio, Deputy Secretary for Public Health Administration, said.

Physical activity will help with a host of other diseases, as well, such as childhood obesity and cardiovascular disease, she added.

Collecting data is also important for the Commonwealth, she said. It drives funding initiatives.

"Data drives decision making," she said. "We don't know where you're at and where you can go without it."

Other jurisdictions taking part set their own focus and goals during the five-day summit. The first two and a half days were spent sharing information, resources and techniques among the jurisdictions, while the second portion was spent in breakout groups focusing on issues related to each individual jurisdiction.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Flyers and different informational materials about diabetes are displayed while health representatives from across the Pacific region gather for the first Pacific Summit on Diabetes at the Saipan World Resort Tuesday.

Tenorio said there are plans underway for another Pacific diabetes summit in spring 2009 where the representatives can share the status of the goals they set.

Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Public Health Secretary, said officials from federal agencies were able to provide information on diabetes funding.

"We're in awe of the federal participation," he said. "They were all in one room to provide guidance."

While the local government also provides money for dealing with the disease's effects, very little is earmarked for preventing diabetes, Villagomez said. That needs to change, he added.

"Or else we'll be here 10 years from now discussing the same [disease] rates and problems," he said.

Thirty percent of CNMI residents are afflicted with the illness, ranking the Commonwealth among the top five populations for the rate of diabetes, Tenorio said.

According to 2002 statistics, there were 3,019 known diabetes patients in the CNMI, with half being of Chamorro descent.

In the past, type II diabetes was seen in older patients, but now it is being seen in kids as young as 10 years old in the CNMI. In the Pacific region, kids as young as 6 years old are being diagnosed with the illness, Tenorio said.

The illness has forced the Commonwealth Health Center to install 18 additional dialysis units, bringing the total number to 30, Tenorio said.

Pacific jurisdictions taking part in the summit were: CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

Several organizations helped to fund the summit and pay for the travel costs of the attendees. The organizations include: Health and Human Service's Office of Global Health Affairs; National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities; Indian Health Services; and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

Number of NCLEX takers coming to Saipan drops

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The number of Filipino nurses taking the United States licensing examination has remained steady for the first half of 2008 compared to last year, despite Manila now offering the test.

A total of 9,837 Filipinos took the National Council Licensure Examination from January to June 2008, a decrease of 107 from last year's number of 9,944 during the same time, Ernesto Herrera, general secretary of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, said in a press statement.

The United States' National Council of State Boards of Nursing board of directors chose Manila as an international NCLEX site in February 2007, following the Philippine government's request to host the NCLEX.

Filipino nurses wanting to take the NCLEX had earlier favored Saipan because of its close proximity to the Philippines and the less stringent visa requirement of the CNMI government compared with the U.S. immigration in Guam.

However, with the test now being offered in Manila came a proportionate drop in the number of Filipino nurses coming to Saipan to take the test.

According to the Marianas Visitor's Authority, the number of Filipino tourists dropped from 516 in July 2007 to 171 in July of this year. MVA officials said the drop in numbers could be attributed to Manila now offering the test.

Many potential test takers have complained about the slow processing by the Commonwealth Board of Nursing to win approval to take the NCLEX.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said a lack of staffing has affected the processing.

Chrestine Batalon, a resident of the Philippines, said she is worried about the status of her application because a friend of hers submitted her required documents in April and still has not heard back.

"I know the eligibility from Saipan would only take 2-3 months but in her case, it's almost six months and yet she [hasn't] received any [word]," she said.

Batalon said her sister took the test in Saipan last year at a cost of about $1,100, but with a new testing site in Manila, she wants to take it there once she hears about her status.

Ban on govt-paid cell phones stressed

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reiterated his administration's policy against the use of government-paid mobile phones.

In a memorandum, the governor reminded his Cabinet members that local funds should not be used to pay for government mobile phone usage.

"As part of our austerity policy, only federal funds should be used for government mobile phone usage, unless otherwise approved by [the governor's special assistant for administration] for essential public safety functions," Fitial said.

The use of taxpayer funds for government cellular phones has been prohibited since the Fitial administration took office almost three years ago. Apparently, some government employees still keep government-paid cellular phones.

In February 2006, then acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez issued a directive banning government-paid mobile phones and instructing agencies to use a centralized telephone system in all government offices. These measures are extremely important to prevent wasteful spending and to help reduce the operational cost of government, Villagomez said.

(Agnes E. Donato)

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Public school buses making more trips

From Page 1

The Transportation Division is trying to find the necessary parts to make repairs on the three buses, Pangelinan said. One bus had power steering problems, while crewmembers were unable to work on the other two because they are still under factory warranties and must be fixed by Hawthorne Pacific. PSS is also hoping two buses that are currently off island will return soon.

With only nine buses, bus drivers have had to make repeated trips to pick up all the students. Some students are 30 minutes to an hour late to school, and drivers are on their routes until 5pm or later delivering the kids to their homes at the end of the day, Pangelinan said.

He said he has been receiving calls from parents about the delays and safety of students waiting outside for long periods of time.

"A lot of concerns are coming from parents, asking 'Where are they? Why are they late?'" Pangelinan said.

The schools are notified about late buses, and the administrators understand the problems they are facing, he added.

Adding to the problem, Pangelinan said, is the increase in the number of students riding the buses this year.

Although they do not have the numbers for the first week yet, Pangelinan said he estimates a 20- to 30-percent increase over last year's numbers. Approximately 2,500 students were picked up each day last year.

The Transportation Division has not been using the schedule they originally distributed to the public because of the lack of buses, Pangelinan said.

"Right now it's like all hell is breaking lose, and no one knows which bus to use," he said. "The schedule we set, we're going against [it]," he said. "There's just a lot of confusion."

A new schedule should be ready this week with the necessary changes, he added.

Pangelinan said the district is still scheduled to receive five new buses on or before Nov. 30.

New poll shows neck and neck presidential race

port from working-class and suburban whites have lifted Republican John McCain to a slender lead over Barack Obama less than two months from Election Day, a poll on the presidential race said Friday.

The Arizona senator has a 13-percentage-point lead over his Democratic rival both with men and senior citizens, and a 23-point advantage among rural residents, according to the Associated Press-GfK Poll of likely voters. He's also doing better than Obama at consolidating support from party loyalists: 94 percent of Republicans back McCain, while 83 percent of Democrats prefer the Illinois senator.

Obama has good news, too. He's preferred two-to-one by those who say the nation's economy is in poor shape—a strong position on an issue many surveys say is the public's top worry. He also has an 18-point advantage among voters who look more to a candidate's values and views than experience, and his weak showing with whites is generally no worse than Democrat John Kerry did in his losing but close 2004 race against President Bush.

The poll is in line with others showing that in the days since both parties picked vice presidential candidates and held their conventions, Republicans have gained momentum and erased a modest lead Obama held most of the summer. McCain leads Obama among likely voters, 48 percent to 44 percent, according to the AP-GfK Poll.

"My heart sort of runs with McCain and my mind probably tends to run toward Obama," said David Scorup, 58, a county government official in Othello, Wash. "I think I resonate more with McCain."

The poll suggests that perceived inexperience is more of a problem at the top of the Democratic ticket than in the No. 2 spot for Republicans.

Eighty percent say McCain, with nearly three decades in Congress, has the right experience to be president. Just 46 percent say Obama, now in his fourth year in the Senate, is experienced enough.

Fully 47 percent say Obama lacks the proper experience—an even worse reading than the 36 percent who had the same criticism about McCain running mate Sarah Palin, serving her second year as Alaska governor after being a small-town mayor.

"This is his fourth year in the Senate, and two of those four years he spent campaigning for president," said Arthur Koch, 63, an undecided voter from Wallington, N.J. "I'm not too comfortable with that."

Underscoring how tight the race remains, several swing groups that traditionally help decide presidential races remain split between the two tickets. These include independents, married women and Catholics.

AP

Republican presidential candidate, Sen., John McCain, R-Ariz., and Democratic presidential candidate, Sen., Barack Obama, D-Ill., talk as they walk together after participating in a Ground Zero 9/11 memorial observance Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008 in New York. McCain's wife Cindy, left, looks on.

Seven in 10 said Palin made the right decision in becoming McCain's running mate, despite the demands of a family whose five children include a pregnant, unmarried teenage daughter and an infant with Down syndrome. Men were slightly likelier than women to back her choice, and even Obama supporters were split closely over whether she did the proper thing.

"She scares the bedoodles out of me," said Lisa Rolfe, 46, an Obama backer and pharmaceutical worker in Pembroke Pines, Fla. But as for Palin's choice, she said, "I know it's going to be very difficult, but I'm sure she weighed her decision. That's a very personal value."

McCain leads Obama by 55 percent to 37 percent among whites. That includes margins of 24 points with suburban whites and 26 points with whites who haven't finished college, plus similar advantages with white men and married whites.

The poll finds that despite Democratic attempts to tie McCain to the profoundly unpopular Bush, half say they believe the Arizonan would chart a different course—including a slight majority of independents, a pivotal bloc of voters. In addition, although slightly more call themselves Democrats than Republicans, conservatives have a huge 40 percent to 20 percent edge over liberals.

Ken Campbell, 49, a Republican and county sheriff in Lebanon, Ind., said of Obama: "Our lifestyles and beliefs are so radically different that there is no similarity whatsoever."

Obama leads 61 percent to 35 percent among voters under age 30. He has about a 5-to-1 edge with minorities and narrow advantages with college graduates and women, though he trails among white women 53 percent to 40 percent.

Asked if they prefer a presidential candidate with solid experience or one whose values and views they support, two-thirds picked the latter. While those preferring experience overwhelmingly back McCain, people opting for a contender's values say they'll back Obama over McCain, 56 percent to 38 percent.

"Obama seems to be more oriented toward getting people together," said Ron Long, 60, of Pella, Iowa, an Obama supporter.

Though Obama led among those who said values were more important than experience, respondents gave a 9-point edge to McCain as the candidate whose values and principles are similar to theirs. He had an 8-point edge over whom people agreed with on issues.

In another sign of recent GOP gains, people said they preferred a Democratic to a Republican-run Congress, 46 percent to 41 percent. Several surveys earlier this year gave Democrats a wider edge.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted Sept. 5-10 and involved landline and cell phone interviews with 1,217 adults, including 812 considered likely voters. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 2.8 percentage points for the entire sample and 3.4 points for likely voters.

Editor's Note: *This poll is the first release from the new AP-GfK Poll. This polling partnership brings together The Associated Press and GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media, a leading provider of public opinion research for more than 75 years. The polls are branded as the "AP-GfK Poll." The GfK Group, the world's fourth-largest market research company, headquartered in Germany, has been providing research for clients around the world since the 1930s.*

United Workers Movement NMI induction and fellowship today

The induction of the first set of officers of the United Workers Movement, NMI is at 2pm today. Rep. Tina Sablan is expected to attend, together with other community leaders.

The venue for the meeting is at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.

All workers on Saipan are invited to attend this gathering. Dinner and fellowship will follow after the program.

For more details, contact Irene at 285 7717 or Jane at 287 5180. ***(PR)***

Opinions differ on Stafford Act application

From Page 1

ministration, Tenorio said, the Stafford Act covers many emergencies or disasters other than "natural disasters." He added that Saipan's power crisis poses a threat to public health and safety that should be evident and easily justified.

"Based upon my discussions with FEMA and Department of Homeland Security officials in D.C., I have to wonder if Region 9 staff has been misrepresented. There is clearly precedent for this request," said Tenorio.

He noted that FEMA has provided emergency assistance to several non-natural disasters in the last few years, including the New York power outage in August 2003, and the Minnesota bridge collapse in August 2007.

Now that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has already declared a disaster emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., all he needs to do is to make a formal request under the Stafford Act, Tenorio said.

"If the governor makes the request, then, if needed, I will gladly help justify, document, and convince FEMA of the severity of our problem," said Tenorio.

But the Fitial administration continues to downplay Tenorio's call for federal intervention. The governor's spokesman noted that the CNMI Office of the Attorney General and FEMA have already advised that the Stafford Act does not apply to the power problem. The CNMI Department of Finance, after consulting with FEMA, has also advised that the act is not applicable.

"Tenorio is not a lawyer," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. "Moreover, not only does Pete A. misunderstand the Stafford Act, he also calls for action only two days before we connect an additional 15 megawatts through the Aggreko equipment. In other words, this is not too little, too late—it is nothing, too late."

Reyes also accused Tenorio, who is running for congressional delegate, of politicking. He said, "Pete A. has embarrassed the CNMI by criticizing our governor in a letter to the President for political purposes—for the sake of his election in November. Instead of showing unity, he shows dissent. However, this is no surprise, given his demonstration of dissent on federalization, when he went against the [Fitial] administration, the business community, and even some members of the Legislature by supporting federalization and the original Senate draft that proposed long-term residency for foreign workers. It's a bit too late for Pete A. to pretend to be bipartisan at this time."

Rep. Tina Sablan, one of the leaders of a local initiative to seek federal help with the power crisis, maintained that the Commonwealth could seek emergency assistance under the Stafford Act.

Sablan said the federal law authorizes the U.S. president to take several types of action, and those include major disaster declarations, which require a gubernatorial request; emergency declarations, which do not require a gubernatorial request, but only a determination by the President that federal assistance is required; and pre-declaration activities, when a disaster is imminent but not yet declared, and under which the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security may place agency employees on alert.

Aggreko generators provide 8 MWs yesterday

From Page 1

ing in the rest by the evening," said CUC Power Division manager Gary Camacho. "Like most times when you start something new, there are adjustments to be made."

Camacho said the adjustments were made to the Aggreko equipment.

As of yesterday afternoon, there was no load shedding on the island, Camacho said.

"So far so good," he added.

The last island outage occurred at 9:30 Friday night. CUC does not anticipate any more outages to occur, he said.

With Aggreko's eight megawatts, CUC's 14 megawatts and privately-operated Power Plant 4's 13 to 14 megawatts, the island was running on approximately 35 to 36 megawatts yesterday afternoon. Approximately 41 megawatts of power are needed to sufficiently power the island 24-hours a day.

On Friday, Gov. Benigno Fitial turned on the first of 16 Aggreko generators. The 15 others were turned on afterward, expected to provide 13 megawatts of power to the island. Two more generators, producing two megawatts of power, are expected to arrive next week.

Earlier in the week, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said there should be no outages once the generators are fully operational.

"We didn't bring Aggreko in here so we could still load shed," he said.

There have been questions raised whether the 15 megawatts supplied by the emergency generators would be enough to supply the island the necessary amount of megawatts.

In the last few weeks, as little as 19 megawatts have been provided for the island, with five megawatts coming from CUC's two plants.

Muña said Aggreko's 15 megawatts will allow the individual engines at the plants to be rotated, allowing time for more maintenance and repair.

For example, Muña said, at Power Plant 1, CUC crews currently try to continually run the four engines to provide as much power to the island as possible. But once the emergency generators are operational, the engines will be worked on a rotating schedule, allowing for more maintenance.

After the Aggreko generators reach full capacity, Muña said he is anticipating Power Plant 4 to produce 14 megawatts, Power Plant 1 to produce 10 megawatts, and Power Plant 2 to carry six to eight.

"The key thing is to make sure all of the assets are there," he said.

Under the Aggreko contract, CUC must pay $6 million as rent for the generators. CUC paid a down payment of $1.5 million for the initial shipment. They must pay Aggreko an additional $536,000 within 30 days.

Psychologist urges autism commission for NMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A private psychologist has called for passage of legislation creating a temporary commission to aid people with autism spectrum disorders.

A bill establishing a Commonwealth Autism Commission is before the House of Representatives for consideration.

Adrian C. Brenn, a licensed clinical psychologist and president of Pacific Clinical Consulting, said the bill "will provide critical support for families dealing with autism spectrum disorders, all of whom struggle to obtain basic services as well as proven and effective interventions for their children."

The autism commission, proposed in the bill sponsored by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, would develop a state plan for services for people with autism. These services include providing state-of-the-art clinical services, increasing capacity for services through training, increasing awareness about autism in the professional community and public, and conducting research aimed at improving the lives of people with autism and their families.

In the 2007-2008 school year, the Public School System had 58 students enrolled with autism from ages three to 21.

Brenn, who has worked with children with autism for over 12 years in the CNMI, said the Commonwealth's lack of basic services could hinder the progress of some children with autism.

"Most children with autism spectrum disorder can respond very well to intensive intervention, some children progressing to the point where they no longer require special assistance or special education. However, the CNMI lacks many of the basic services, and personnel to provide those services, for these interventions," said Brenn.

"Given the limited availability of skilled personnel and resources in the CNMI, and our isolated location, the need for a coordinated plan to build contacts with providers or trainers and to overcome the major limitations in CNMI services for those dealing with autism spectrum disorders is extremely important," he added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the recent Insular Area Adult Basic Education State Directors' Conference pose for a group photo after their meeting in Guam.

Regional ABE conference focuses on assessment

Assessment was the key topic at this year's Insular Area Adult Basic Education State Directors' Conference, which was hosted by the Guam Community College Aug. 17 – 20, 2008.

Adult Basic Education state directors and qualifying representatives from Pacific Insular Area ABE Partners from Guam, CNMI, American Samoa, and the Republic of Palau participated in the conference, which was held at the Guam Reef Hotel. Forty-nine individuals attended the three-day training with four from American Samoa, three from Palau, 11 from the CNMI and the rest from GCC ABE's community partners.

Last year's Insular Area Conference focused on grant management, audit issues, disability awareness and resiliency. However because of NMC's firm stance on assessment, this year's conference focused on the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System, also referred to as CASAS. CASAS is the only Adult Assessment System of its kind validated by the U.S Department of Education in the areas of assessment, curriculum and instruction. It is designed for real life context to include, but not limited to, employment and life skills in adult education.

In addition, the training also focused on hands-on training utilizing TOPSPro, which is a database system designed specifically for CASAS to track student learning outcomes, program outcomes, attendance, performance measures, and data management for both state and federal accountability.

The training also focused on family literacy to include successful stories of Guam's Motheread/Fatheread Program. Through collaborative efforts, NMC's Adult Basic Education and the Motheread/Fatheread Program under the NMI Council for the Humanities hope to complete the planning process of Motheread/Fatheread Program by October 2008. Other training included mini workshops on the GED Curriculum, ESL and Teaching Strategies in Adult Education.

Northern Marianas College is the designated state recipient of the ABE Insular grant for administrative purposes. This ABE discretionary grant, specifically for professional development needs in Adult Education, is shared through a Memorandum of Agreement with the insular areas, including the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and Republic of Belau.

The representatives from the CNMI included Lorraine Cabrera, Elsie Cabrera, Velma Mafnas, Leonard Morales, Maria Agoun, Martin Mendiola, Greg Quitugua, Mecedes Deleon Guerrero, Viola Deleon Guerrero, Monica Pangelinan and Martha Kintol.

Funding for this training is made possible by a grant received from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. ***(NMC)***

Non-stop Shanghai-Saipan route reopens

The Marianas Visitors Authority, Century Tours, and Tinian Dynasty Holiday will re-open the nonstop tour route between Shanghai and Saipan starting Sept. 29, 2008.

This route is also a new cooperation between two charter flight companies, Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty Holiday, and Shanghai Airlines. The service will be operated using Boeing 767 aircraft.

Every Monday and Friday flights will depart from Shanghai at 7:45pm, and arrive at Saipan International Airport at 2:15am the following day. Every Tuesday and Saturday, the flight departs from Saipan at 3:15am, and arrives at Shanghai Pudong International Airport at 5:55am. ***(PR)***

Hawaii sugar plantation to close

Kauai operation is among last in Hawaii

KAUAI, Hawaii (The Garden Island/PIR)—Gay & Robinson Inc. announced to workers yesterday morning its plans to exit the sugar industry after more than a century on Kaua'i, citing the increasing expense of its sugar operation as it pursues a transition to ethanol production.

The company has stopped planting cane, but will continue to harvest what's in the ground through August 2010, said E. Alan Kennett, Gay & Robinson president and general manager.

The company is continuing negotiations to lease the sugar mill, terminal and other assets to Pacific West Energy LLC, which intends to grow even more sugar than Gay & Robinson for the production of ethanol and electricity, as well as hire all of the existing 227 workers.

"We are now moving forward and intend to be at the forefront of a new era as renewable energy producer and helping to reduce Kaua'i's imports of fossil fuels for our energy needs," Kennett said.

Last year, Gay & Robinson said it planned to invest $80 million to build an ethanol plant that could open as early as this year. The venture, which has yet to get off the ground, has now become the responsibility of Pacific West Energy.

Pacific West Energy President William Maloney said progress depends on two key factors: Concluding revised sugar mill arrangements with Gay & Robinson and acquiring the additional lands it needs to operate.

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVII, Issue No. 257

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Unpack the parachutes

Nothing brings out the populist streak in American politicians quite like a multimillion-dollar golden parachute for a failed executive. So it wasn't surprising when lawmakers broke out the pitchforks and flaming torches after learning that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were making rich severance payments to their ousted chief executives. According to compensation consultant David Schmidt of James F. Reda & Associates, ex-Fannie chief Daniel Mudd stands to collect $6 million to $8 million, and ex-Freddie chief Richard Syron more than $15 million. Not bad, considering that Fannie and Freddie's shares lost at least 90 percent of their value during their relatively brief tenures.

With taxpayers potentially having to inject hundreds of billions of dollars into the two mortgage giants, it's hard to accept their executives departing with enough money to buy a subdivision's worth of repossessed homes. What's lost amid the din of protest is that Mudd and Syron secured their fabulous parting gifts on the way in, not on the way out. That's a common practice in corporate America, where chief executives often persuade compliant directors to insulate them from the financial pain of an ignominious exit. And no matter how many angry statements lawmakers crank out, executives will continue to be rewarded for failure until public companies' boards and shareholders insist that it stop.

We too would love to see Mudd and Syron sent off to the next stage of their careers with little more than a firm handshake. But the federal takeover of Fannie and Freddie (technically, the Federal Housing Finance Agency put them into a conservatorship) shouldn't invalidate the contracts that the two men signed with the companies. The pair would be doing the right thing if they rejected the bulk of their severance payments—especially Syron, whose contract included an unusual $8.8-million cash payment in lieu of his final year's stock options—but they should do so voluntarily.

Meanwhile, the controversy about the pair's severance should help the growing number of corporate boards seeking to guard against paying for failure. Boards need to push back against top executives' demands for employment contracts. If they can't avoid a contract, they should make severance packages available only in the event of a buyout that is in shareholders' interests. Too many contracts, like Mudd's and Syron's, provide ample rewards for executives even when they're kicked to the curb for poor performance. If boards don't do it, they run the risk that Congress will impose more regulations on executive pay or give shareholders more say over it. Better yet, shareholders may simply vote with their feet, investing in companies whose boards know how to say no.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

I'll keep my aging to myself, thank you

By MARC FISHER
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—Strolling down Disease Alley at the AARP Expo at the Washington Convention Center, I feel ever more justified in my decision to keep ignoring the dozens of membership cards the nation's most persistent advocacy group started sending me more than a year ago.

Eager salespeople approach me with offers to measure my bone density, check my blood pressure, find out if my hearing, vision, balance or memory have begun to tank. You name the malady and a government agency, a charitable foundation and a slew of profiteers have set up booths here to hawk information, fear, advice and giveaways.

Whoever mapped out the exhibit hall at this past week's AARP meeting had a fine time collecting many of the disease booths in one cluster, including a row that leads from heart and lung to muscle deterioration, to the across-the-aisle rivals promoting alternative medicines and warning against dietary supplements, and on to epilepsy, deafness and, finally, John Reed and Celi Clark, who at least have the smarts to offer free Snickers bars.

People don't so much stop and chat with Reed and Clark as sort of wander by, pause and scurry on. The cheerful duo represent the National Funeral Directors Association, and they have no illusions about ever being quite as popular a stop as, say, the Wii demonstration or the free massage area.

"Typically, they do their first pass and do a double-take," says Clark, who has the unenviable job of handling PR for the funeral directors. "Second pass, they steal a piece of candy. Third pass, they determine that we're not measuring them, and then they ask their question."

Which often has something to do with cremation vs. burial. But what I learned from Clark and Reed, a funeral director in West Virginia, and from many others at the AARP bash, is that, as Clark puts it, "Being 50 means something different now."

Diseases and pharmaceutical companies and the aches and pains industry—I never dreamed there could be so many products aimed at making your feet feel better—are all an integral part of an AARP show, but some very clever marketing folks have spent a long time figuring out how to make a buck off the country's big bulge of aging boomers. They have managed to convince many people in their 50s that it's OK to think about being old, OK to take those first steps into the world of wheelchair lifts, grab bars, advance directives and, oh my, colonoscopy prep that comes in a pill instead of a massive gallon jug of vile liquid.

So yes, this is a hall where you really find accordion salesmen and "foot elevators" (they sure look like pillows to me), but it's also where Magic Johnson (like me, he's within a year of hitting 50) and Gene "If it's too loud, you're too old" Simmons and Richard Petty now come to meet their people. To lure the 50-plus crowd, AARP's convention featured performances by Chicago, Paul Simon, Chaka Khan and Regis Philbin. There's Petty over there, signing his photos! And here's KISS's Simmons, 59, who knows where his audience lives now.

"It's surreal to see Regis Philbin on the same bill with Gene Simmons," says Tessa Pollack, 61, who came from San Antonio because going to her first AARP event last year, "as a gag to myself," turned out to be a blast. "It made 60 a little more painless. You look around and you see that America's getting older, but it's a younger older."

She says this after trying her feet on Dance Dance Revolution, the ubiquitous boardwalk arcade game on which most teenagers I know can dance like lab rats in an amphetamines experiment. Pollack's pace is more like my speed on Guitar Hero; I know glaciers that have scored better.

But here she is at AARP, along with a slew of other folks in their 60s, doing as their grandkids do. Same thing over at Nintendo's Wii machines. Across the room, Microsoft is teaching folks how to create slideshows, and Verizon is conducting classes on texting and "cellphone basics."

"Twenty years ago, people this age weren't like this, they weren't trying to stay where they were," says Christel Ross, 54, from Sykesville, Md., who realized that the long slide had begun back many years ago, when her eye doctor warned her that at 40, she would need reading glasses. "Almost to the day, I did. Now, people in their 50s like where we are. We're not trying to be 20; I wouldn't ever want to be what I was in my 20s again. But we're not afraid of being this age.

"The older people here are a lot more spry and agile than people that age were in the 1950s or 60s. Spry—is that the word? My migraine has settled in."

All around me, people scurry off to hear Shirley MacLaine talk about aging. Yes, "spry" is the word. But so is "self." The vast convention hall is a state fair of self-care and self-absorption, the very quintessence of boomerism.

I appreciate the free massage and the air guitar booth and the face creams, but I still don't want that card.

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Maybe it's time we redefined manliness

By COURTLAND MILLOY
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Milloy is a columnist for The Washington Post.

WASHINGTON—Maybe if he had a swagger like Marion Barry or a knack for vicious hyperbole like Jesse Jackson or a military bearing like Colin Powell. Then, perhaps, Barack Obama could put an end to questions about his masculinity.

"Does Barack Obama have testicular fortitude?" read a recent headline on the History News Network, an online publication hosted by George Mason University.

Paul Gipson, president of a local steelworkers union in Indiana, endorsed Hillary Clinton's bid for president, saying "what we gotta have" is "an individual that has testicular fortitude."

What is Obama to do?

Obviously, it's not enough to battle your way to the Democratic nomination for president of the United States. You can vanquish a field of primary candidates. You can win campaigns in the far northwest, in places where there are no blacks to speak of. You can raise a war chest that exceeds the annual budget of a midsize town.

You can walk a fine line between being too black for whites and not black enough for blacks. But here you are, just weeks away from the presidential election, being called on to prove that you are man enough—without coming off as an angry black man.

"Barack Obama, as an African American man, has a real challenge," Estelle Freedman, professor of history at Stanford University, said Sunday on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." "Some of the criticism of Obama as being too aloof or not going after red meat enough or not being aggressive enough are really questioning his masculinity in some ways.

"But given the historic stereotypes about fear of African American men's masculinity and fears of their aggression, Obama has been successful because he embodies an earlier model of black male politicians for whom respectability and reason were tickets into full citizenship."

But not successful enough, apparently.

On Tuesday, Richard Cohen wrote on the op-ed page of The Washington Post that Obama's appearance on a TV talk show Sunday "had me wondering if, as a kid, Obama ever got a shot in the mouth on the playground, he'd glare at the bully—and convene a meeting."

Arita Coleman, assistant professor of Black American Studies at the University of Delaware, deconstructs such criticism in an article that appeared June 2 on the History News Network.

"Historically, our leaders have been white. Thus, whiteness and masculinity have also become synonymous," she writes. That women like Clinton and now Sarah Palin, the Republican vice presidential nominee, can be considered more masculine than Obama "bears historical significance" in that it grows out of a 19th century view of race which holds whiteness as masculine and dominant and blackness as feminine and submissive.

Palin's claim to masculine fame is that she is a moose hunter and hockey mother of five who can morph into a pit bull. She also has a penchant for drilling oil—"drill, baby, drill," her supporters chant. She thinks Obama is a wimp, in part, for his reluctance to do so.

The manly response by Obama would be to sic his pit bull—vice presidential nominee Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware—on her. Then Obama can pick up where he left off at the Democratic National Convention: going after the Republican presidential candidate, John McCain.

"If John McCain wants to have a debate about who has the temperament and judgment to serve as the next commander in chief, that's a debate I'm ready to have," Obama said, to the sustained applause of nearly 80,000 conventioneers. Then came the knockout punch: "John McCain likes to say that he'll follow bin Laden to the Gates of Hell, but he won't even go to the cave where he lives."

If traditional campaigning can't convince voters that Obama is man enough, then perhaps he should wear his baseball cap backward and saunter cockily, a model of black masculinity that America is more familiar with. He could vow to off his rivals with the political equivalent of what Palin does to a moose.

A teacher's first day at an old stop

By MARISOL LEON
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Think Ivy League," pleaded Mrs. Anderson, my English teacher. "Ivy League? What is that?" I remember thinking.

I was in the seventh grade that day, a student at Mount Vernon Middle School in mid-city Los Angeles. I stood there in awkward disbelief as Joan Anderson explained the notion of elite colleges to me. I knew hardly anything about colleges: Neither of my parents finished high school. But my teacher understood that, and by the time I graduated from Mount Vernon, she had made certain that I was committed to going to college.

Wednesday was my first day back at Mount Vernon, which is now Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. Middle School. I am a seventh-grade English teacher, placed here by Teach for America.

As I walked to my classroom on my first morning, I couldn't help but think about how nervous and awkward I felt as a seventh-grader on the first day of school, and how even more nervous and more awkward I felt now.

The school stands just as I remember it. Every time I walk down the hallways, I stumble over yet another lost middle school memory. Some I buried for a reason. But other things, like the mural painted by my friend's father that still covers the wall next to my classroom, make me smile and feel completely at home. I can't help but see myself, and so many of my friends, in the 12- and 13-year-olds around me.

Students entering my classroom grabbed slips of paper that directed them to their assigned seats. All of my students sit in groups of four, each group named after a role model. Hanging from the ceiling, above each set of desks, is a picture of the role model and, on the back, a quote. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchu: "This world is not going to change unless we are willing to change ourselves." Writer Langston Hughes: "Let all others keep silent a moment. I have this word to bring."

I chose these figures because, at one point or another, I had looked to each to stay focused and empowered on my own educational journey. We didn't discuss them very much on day one, but we will as we read excerpts from their writings. All my students know so far is that these "legends"—as a young man in my third period put it—excelled by doing three things that we're going to be working on every day, all semester: reading, writing and critical thinking.

Every teacher I've talked to emphasizes the importance of classroom management, so I made my expectations on behavior and academic performance—and the consequences of not meeting them—very clear that first day too. But before we got into that, I asked my new students two questions: What is something you have in common with everyone else in this classroom, and what is one thing that makes you unique? We discussed the importance of finding strength in our differences and similarities as a class. We talked about classroom values: Respect. Honesty. Pride. Community. Responsibility.

Values that have brought me back to my middle school.

To prepare for the next two years, I participated in the Teach for America Summer Institute, a six-week intensive training program. Then I spent three weeks in professional development classes and seminars at Cochran.

But before my first day, I knew I also had to visit Mrs. Anderson, who retired from Cochran several years ago.

A couple of weeks ago, we spent an entire Monday afternoon together. She had been surprised, but happy, when I told her of my decision to join Teach for America. We talked for hours—about her classroom management techniques, literacy strategies, pedagogical principles.

As I sat there listening to the woman who looked at me at age 12 and saw more in me than anyone ever had—the woman who taught me to cast off self-doubt, to define for myself what I am capable and not capable of doing, to think critically and fight for what I believe in—I could only hope that, one day, I could be a Mrs. Anderson for my students.

Leon graduated from Yale in 2007 and spent a year working for a nongovernmental organization in Chiapas, Mexico.

Real vice presidents can have curves

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times*. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.*

John McCain has presented voters with a decision most of us never thought we would have to confront: Should we sexually objectify the vice presidential nominee of the Republican Party? Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, 44, who was runner-up for Miss Alaska and is often photographed holding automatic weapons, is so attractive that Alaskans have bumper stickers that say "Coldest State, Hottest Governor." If 1980s music videos are to be at all believed, two minutes into one of her interviews with Charlie Gibson, Palin is destined to toss her glasses and unleash four feet of hair while the top three buttons of her blouse explode in a cloud of smoke.

American men know how to deal with male politicians. When they're good-looking, we call them gay. When they're not, we call them "distinguished-looking" or "Joe Lieberman." But, until now, we haven't been forced to fully consider the beauty of our female politicians. It's not that Hillary Clinton or Condoleezza Rice aren't attractive; they're just attractive in that "Oh, your aunt looks lovely in her wedding photos" kind of way.

But in the last few years—for reasons I assume have to do with either yoga, organic food or advice from Dr. Oz—women in their 40s and 50s have gotten truly, deeply hot. Madonna hot. Demi Moore hot. Stifler's mom hot. In 1990, the only way a woman could have had five kids and still look like Palin was to have been knocked up in high school with quintuplets.

It seems as if the prudent thing to do would be to ignore Palin's hotness—to refrain, unlike Rush Limbaugh, from calling her "a babe" or, unlike Joe Biden, from saying she's "good-looking." Sexualizing Palin is dangerous because it shifts the focus away from her leadership skills, diminishes her from a subject to an object and could anger that insane-looking, snowmobile-racing husband of hers. When she posed for Vogue last year, Palin said of the media, "I wish they'd stick with the issues instead of discussing my black go-go boots." A good method of getting reporters to do that, of course, is to not pose for Vogue or talk about your go-go boots. Still, I understand her point. Which is that she wears go-go boots.

But I think whatever wave of feminism we're on in 2008 demands that I objectify Palin. Just as Obama Girl, JFK's teenage admirers and anyone who's been within 100 yards of Mitt Romney can swoon without implying those guys' ineffectualness, I think women are now taken seriously enough that I should be able to admit to noticing a female political leader's hotness without being accused of sexism.

In fact, what's sexist is men's fear of sexualizing the women we take seriously. It implies that men find power unattractive; that we segregate those we desire as sexual partners from those we want as intellectual partners; that our image of hotness is confined to the young, dumb and full of weak policy positions.

I would like to live in a world in which young men dream about sex with a woman who is vice president instead of whatever job it is that Kim Kardashian holds.

So I've decided to begin the full-on exploitation of Palin, a woman whose fiscal policy I admire and who also I hope accidentally releases a sex tape on the Internet. I considered creating a Palin pinup poster that could be sold at Spencer Gifts, or shooting a film about a bespectacled Alaskan governor who saves a fishing boat full of men about to die of frostbite by providing body heat.

But I settled on calling my friend, Scott Brown, a writer at Entertainment Weekly, to see if he had any great ideas for a love song to the Alaskan governor. Yes he did. The song and video, "Drill Down (to Your Heart)," which he posted at Time.com, contains such lyrics as "You enthrall me like Tina Fey / If Tina Fey had a loaded AK / And had a hundred babies / And some of them had babies."

I hope I'm right, and that we are capable of both drooling over Sarah Palin and listening to what she has to say. Because if we can, and if Barack Obama wins, maybe he'll make 49-year-old Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm the attorney general. Growing up in California, she was named Miss San Carlos.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

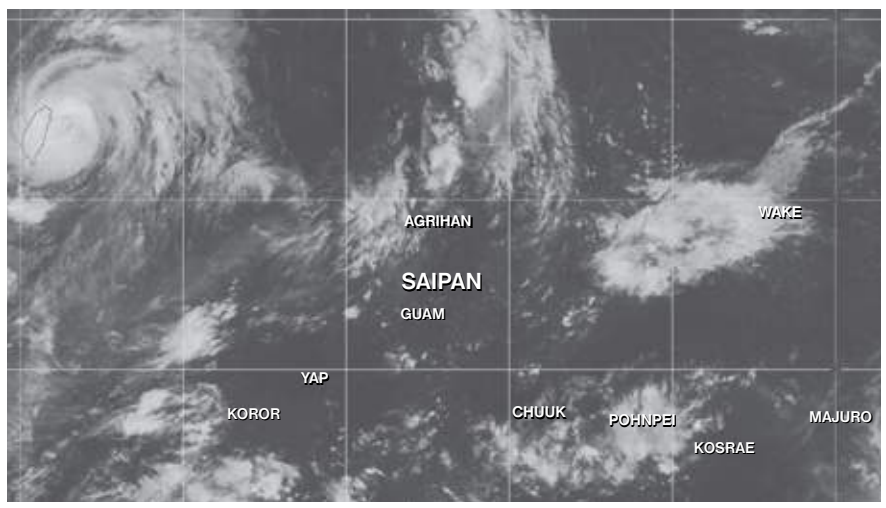
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲59	▼53
Beijing	Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼49
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼79
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼66
Osaka	Rain	▲83	▼70
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼51
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼63
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲85	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼57
Tokyo	Rain	▲80	▼73
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲85	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low pressure system centered at 28N150E aloft stacks down to the surface at 29N146E. Favorable upper-level divergence coupled with low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of the Mariana Islands within an area bounded by a line from 25N148E to 22N140E to 18N142E to 25N154E back to 25N148E. An upper-level trough extends northeastward from 15N158E to 25N168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found within 100 miles of a line extending northeastward from 17N157E to 19N166E and within 50 miles of a line from 19N166E to 22N169E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and over Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line extending eastward from 5N150E to 7N161E. Northeasterly low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and few thunderstorms south of Koror between the equator and 5N from 130E to 137E. Southwesterly low-level convergence is causing scattered showers and few thunderstorms west and northwest of Koror between 7N and 14N from 130E to 133E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:54AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
6:14AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:04PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:30PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:06AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:06AM	6:18 PM
Wednesday	6:06AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:16 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:28PM	4:45AM
Monday	6:06PM	5:38AM
Tuesday	6:46PM	6:31AM
Wednesday	7:27PM	7:26AM
Thursday	8:12PM	8:23AM

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- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

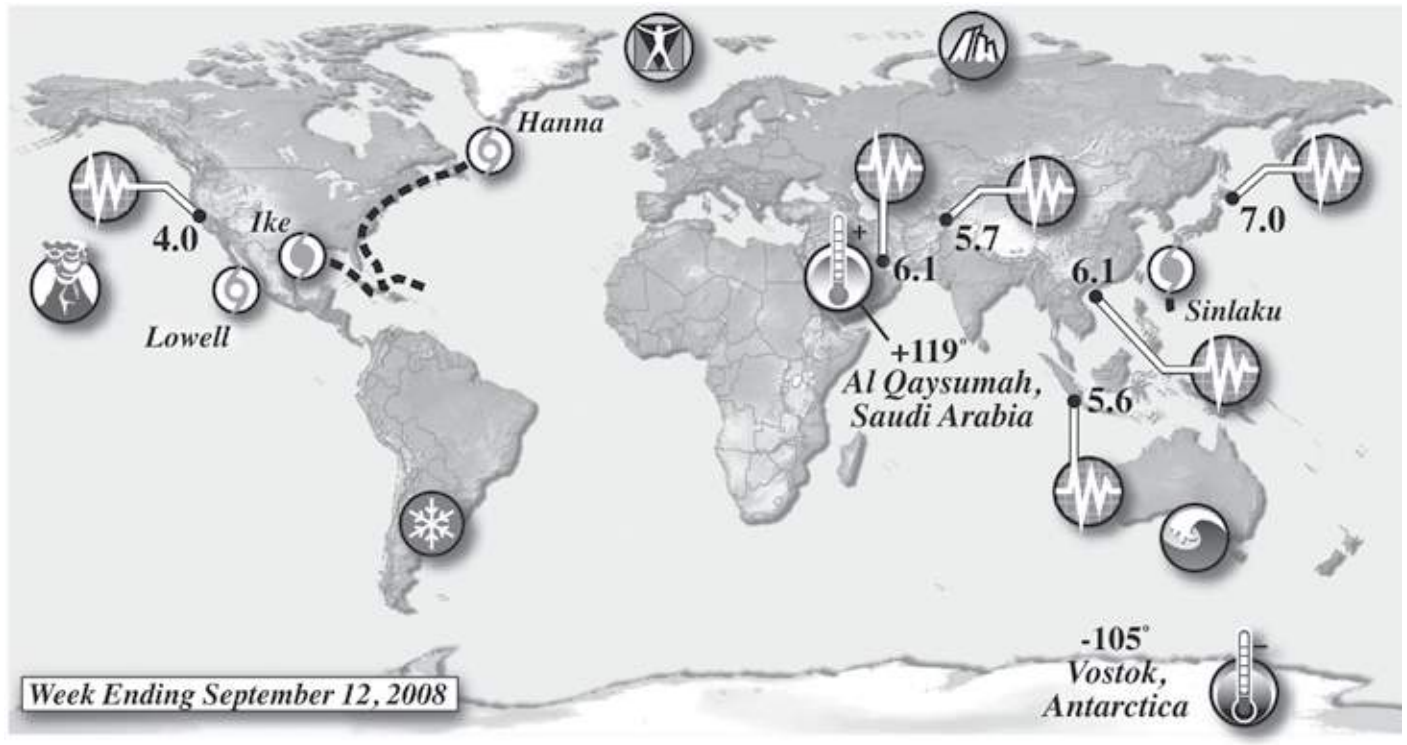
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service,
Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Ice-Free Arctic Routes

U.S. polar ice experts announced that satellite images show a navigable corridor of water opened up around the entire Arctic in early September for possibly the first time in 125,000 years. The development makes it theoretically possible to circumnavigate the North Pole in a ship. Mark Serreze, a sea ice specialist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colo., said the images suggest that the Arctic ice cap may have entered a "death spiral" due to global warming. The fabled Northwest Passage through Arctic Canada and the Northern Sea Route off the coast of Russia have opened up before, but never at the same time. Since the trend of increased summertime melt is expected to continue, some shipping companies are making plans to take advantage of the potential new routes. Germany's Beluga Group says it will send the first ship through the newly open waters north of Russia next summer, cutting 4,000 miles off the voyage from Germany to Japan.

Tropical Cyclones

The Texas Gulf Coast was bracing for the arrival of Category 3 Hurricane Ike late in the week. The storm had left 5 people dead during a rampage across the entire length of Cuba. Around 74 people were killed when Ike's torrential rainfall worsened already disastrous flooding in Haiti.

■ Passing Tropical Storm Hanna drenched a broad stretch of the U.S. eastern seaboard and Atlantic Canada. The region was spared any significant damage.

■ Tropical Storm Lowell formed briefly to the south of Mexico's Baja California peninsula.

■ Category 4 Typhoon Sinlaku lashed Japan's southernmost island.

Arctic Bioprospecting

Arctic melting is giving biotechnology researchers a fresh opportunity to develop products from DNA found in Arctic plants and animals. Companies are trying to exploit the new biological frontier to develop products ranging from ice cream to anti-stroke medications, said David Leary, an international lawyer with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies. Biodiversity exploration had primarily been focused on the Amazon and other tropical areas until recent expeditions into the Arctic. One company is using "antifreeze proteins" found in Arctic plants and animals to improve the texture, taste and safety of frozen foods. Another company is attempting to use proteins from the Arctic squirrel, which can lower its temperature to below freezing, to help stroke victims recover more quickly.

Earthquakes

A 6.1 magnitude temblor centered in far southern Iran killed at least seven people and wrecked buildings in 200 villages.

■ Low-lying residents in northern Japan's Hokkaido Island were evacuated following a 7.0 magnitude offshore quake.

■ One person was killed in Sumatra Island's Bengkulu province by a sharp quake that wrecked 50 homes.

■ Earth movements were also felt in northern Pakistan, Taiwan and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Drought Breaker

A bitterly cold snowstorm brought relief to a wide swath of central Argentina that until recently had been plagued by devastating wildfires sparked by the worst drought in more than 50 years. If followed by springtime rains, the snow should help soil moisture recover over the next few months, according to agriculture officials. Lack of rain has hampered efforts to plant wheat and other crops, and has also been responsible for the deaths or more than 400,000 head of livestock.

Extreme Waves

While Australian surfers have long enjoyed high surf, the extreme waves that often pound the country's southern shores are becoming far too large and frequent for comfort. Australian researchers say buoys that measure ocean waves off Tasmania have found that an increase in wave heights and a counterclockwise rotation of wave direction is occurring due to a southern shift in intense subtropical storms. Climate Change Minister Penny Wong said such extreme surf "can be destructive, leading to coastal inundation, erosion and the disturbance of marine habitats."

Hawaiian Lava Lake

Scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) say they have discovered a lake of lava bubbling beneath the surface of Kilauea volcano. The 160-foot diameter lake was found about 330 feet below the rim of the summit's active Halemaumau crater vent, which opened up on March 19. The lava was observed during a helicopter flight on Sept. 5, "roiling and producing bursts of bubbles as its central upwelling circulation changed." Kilauea's current activity does not threaten any populated areas, other than by the volcanic gases that have prompted health alerts in recent months.

Distributed by: Universal Press Syndicate
www.earthweek.com
MMVIII Earth Environment Service?

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Cats rescued after apparently starting house fire

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—Chattanooga firefighters rescued several cats during a house fire that investigators say was probably caused by the cats themselves. Fire department spokesman Bruce Garner said firefighters responded to an alarm Thursday morning and found a fire in the kitchen. While no one was home, they found about 10 cats inside. Some of the cats escaped the house on their own, but some showed signs of smoke inhalation. Capt. Lesley Morgan said the cause of the fire appears to be accidental and most likely from a cat knocking over an unattended candle in the kitchen.

Utah politician seals deal with horse kiss

FARMINGTON, Utah (AP)—Lose a bet, kiss a horse. That's how Davis County Commissioner Alan Hansen found himself kissing a 3-year-old sand-colored horse named Reno. The smooch stemmed from a contest between employees at Davis County and the Davis Hospital and Medical Center. The rules: Members of the team that lost the most weight got to watch their boss kiss a farm animal. This year, the county employees won—county staffers lost 397.6 pounds, just slightly trimmer than the hospital workers. So on Tuesday, Hansen met Reno on the front steps of the county courthouse and puckered up for what became a quick peck. But not before he slathered on some lip balm and popped a breath mint. He told the mare: "This is more for you than me."

Mich. trooper fatally shoots 7-foot python

PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan State Police trooper fatally shot a nearly 7-foot long Burmese python that slithered onto a road and was spotted lunging at a passing pickup truck. Motorist Brian Ahlin called 911 Monday after seeing the snake in the middle of the road, just a few feet from a park. Ahlin says the snake tried to attack his truck and continued to do so even after he repeatedly ran over the reptile. Trooper William Coon arrived and used his .40-caliber handgun to kill the snake. Authorities say the 6-foot, 10-inch python likely was a pet that either escaped or was released because of its size.

Good Housekeeping

In children's rooms, a splash of color and personality

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Decorative painter Sunny Goode's goal has always been to get more people painting. Her just-published second book, "Paint Can! Children's Rooms" (Sterling Publishing, $24.95), empowers parents to take up glazing, color washing and stenciling to create a special environment for their child.

Goode, who has been a decorative painter for more than 15 years, is tapping into a rich market: 21st-century parents anxious to fashion custom environments for their offspring. Forget slapping up a Scooby-Doo decal: Sophisticated parents fret over the decor for a baby's room as much as they do over their living room color.

"People tend to go all out when it comes to their children," says Goode, of Richmond, Va. "We see circular cribs and gold-leafed fireplaces. Are you kidding me? My last child got a nursery converted out of a closet." The former closet, however, was given a stylish makeover with color washing, glazing and freehand painting of polka dots and curlicue borders. "Most parents are starting from scratch with nurseries, so they are willing to go one step further than just a fresh coat of paint," Goode says.

The president of Sunny's Goodtime Paints, Goode is still building the specialty paint business she started in a garage in 2001. She sells her own line of products and stencils in her shop at 5703 Grove Ave. in Richmond as well as through www.sunnysgoodtimepaint.com. She has always been a cheerleader for do-it-yourself specialty painting, and she spends a lot of time answering e-mail from anxious would-be artists.

"People are too hard on themselves. We want to show it's affordable and fun," she says. Goode estimates that pros might charge $300 to $1,200 to custom paint a 10-by-10-foot child's bedroom. "If you do something yourself," she says, "it can cost you under $100 and one day's work, if you don't obsess over it." The effect can be dramatic, and cheaper than wallpaper.

Goode is happiest with a brush in her hand and a can of Sunny's Goodtime Palm Beach Pink Colour Wash in the other. She has painted plenty of frothy princess rooms as well as medieval chambers with faux stone walls for princes. Goode's own children are 11, 9 and 6, so she's had plenty of inspiration and practice.

Monograms often turn up in Goode's kid jobs, not only because they are ubiquitous in Southern decorating but also because she says she believes that they encourage family- and self-awareness in a child. Sometimes she paints them freehand or uses stencils. She sells a removable, laser-cut adhesive monogram sticker in 12 colors. The 22-inch custom version is $95 and is becoming popular in dorms, Goode says.

Goode and business partner Lucy Ackerly have hired a branding consultant to step up their business nationally. Plans include creation of a team of trained and certified Sunny's color consultants and artists for those who want to call in a pro for an in-home consultation. They are exploring re-creating Sunny's prototype shop in Richmond as an in-store boutique, possibly as part of a high-style national home furnishings chain. Podcasting is also in development, including how-tos on painting stripes, stenciling ceilings and glazing walls. Goode's next book, on painted floors, will come out in December 2009.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Soft pink stripes balance out the lively colors n a bandanna-print fabric in a girl's room. From "Paint Can! Children's Rooms," by decorative painter Sunny Goode.

Spice up that space

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Ramp up the look of your kid spaces using decorative painting tips from Sunny Goode, whose new book is "Paint Can! Children's Rooms."

■ Use patterns low on a wall for children's rooms so they can appreciate the art at their level.

■ Personalizing a room, such as creating a monogram or using the child's first name or initials, makes the child feel a sense of ownership.

■ Paint a height chart on the wall and record your children's growth, marking it with the date. They will be delighted to see their progress.

■ Take inspiration from a favorite item, whether a book, a blanket or a favorite place.

■ Use a low-odor paint. If your house was built before 1960, beware of lead paint layers below. Get your walls tested.

■ A easy-to-use, inexpensive stencil can give the look of wallpaper in a room, but you can control the color and pattern yourself.

THE WASHINGTON POST
The whimsical alligator on a child's bed quilt inspired a stencil for the wall. From "Paint Can! Children's Rooms," by decorative painter Sunny Goode.

Imagination at play

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Questions and answers with painter Sunny Goode.

Q: What was the most unusual request you've had for a child's bedroom?

A: A room based on "Where the Wild Things Are." They wanted monsters painted five feet tall all over the pink walls. The girl was 7 years old, and this is what she wanted. It was cute. The characters had smiles on their faces, but the big, huge eyeballs were a bit scary.

Q: What's a good age to start involving your kids in the design of their bedrooms?

A: At age 5, they know what colors they like, and they are totally honest about what likes and dislikes they have. Three- and 4-year-olds change their minds all the time about what they want, so it's too soon. What you have to watch out for is that kids pick out a much stronger color than you would probably want to paint a room. They often pick out the most obnoxious pink or purple or green. You have to take that and taper it down into something that will be fun and bright, but that they can live with.

Q: What are the most popular colors kids choose for themselves for bedrooms?

A: Boys choose khaki, blue or green. Girls choose pink, purple or lime green.

Q: Does painting designs in a kid's room require more skill or creativity than doing living room or kitchen walls?

A: Kids' rooms can be a bit more fun to do because they lend themselves to more color and design. The good thing is that you can do anything you want in a kid's room and it doesn't have to match your living room.

Q: What percentage of parents will try to paint a nursery or kid's room themselves?

A: About 80 percent try and paint their kids' rooms. They get so excited about it, at least for the first child. For the second kid, maybe 60 percent do it, and the third child may never get a freshly painted room. Many of my customers say that their child's room is the first room where they have ever tried decorative painting. They sometimes move on to other rooms after that.

Q: What are some good color choices for painting a nursery if you don't know the sex of your baby?

A: I love greens, green and brown, orange and tan, or lavender and brown. Powdery blues can be for a boy or girl. Or you can do a tan room and wait until the baby is born and add a monogram in pink or blue. Some families are using high graphic black and white. There are no more boundaries as far as colors for babies.

Q: You often paint designs on the ceilings of kids' rooms. Is there a reason?

A: I like ceiling designs of things like polka dots and swirls for nurseries; when babies are on their back, they can see something up there to focus on. Stars and clouds are fun for any age.

Ready, set, declutter: The paper chase

By LIZ SEYMOUR
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Eighth of a nine-part series

WASHINGTON—This has been, without question, the hardest part so far of this attic clean-up project. It has also been the most time-consuming and tedious. One night, having spent nearly three hours sorting bills, birth certificates and newspaper clippings, feeling sleepy and sweaty, I turned around and found 14 boxes still waiting to be emptied.

Everyone keeps too much paper. With the help of Caitlin Shear, the professional organizer who has been coaching me through this ordeal, I had managed to corral 20 boxes of papers at the beginning of this attic cleanup, a process of grouping similar items that she calls "zoning." They sat to one side for weeks, while she and I plowed through the accumulated clutter of holiday decorations, books and baby clothes, among other objects. As difficult as it was to organize all that other stuff, I knew the boxes of papers were going to be worse. I dreaded everything about it.

"This is the same reason why I plant perennials in my garden," Caitlin said, "because I don't ever want to do this again."

What exactly does paper include? It's different for everyone, but my stash included financial and tax documents for my husband, Bob, and me; family records, including wills, baptism certificates and marriage licenses; childhood keepsakes, including my report cards from elementary school and grades from college; professional paperwork, including clips from long-forgotten newspapers; and critical documents, such as the deed to our house in Northwest Washington.

Caitlin and I spent almost seven hours sorting paper into piles, then I toiled away eight more hours on my own separating what was worth keeping. It was amazing to realize how much I could throw away. At the end of it all, there were eight plastic bags bound for the trash and five boxes filled with paper to be shredded. Caitlin said it's fine to throw in the trash anything related to a defunct bank or credit card account. But any current accounts as well as old tax documents are best disposed of with a home shredder for protection against identity theft.

For the first eight weeks of this organizing project, I was happy to have Caitlin get me started, but I made most of the decisions about what to keep and what to toss. When it came to sorting paper, however, I followed Caitlin's advice very closely. I felt so overwhelmed by the sheer volume that I craved specific directions to keep me going.

Here are some of Caitlin's tips:

SAFE DEPOSIT BOX

There are some documents that should not be stored anywhere other than a safe deposit box at the bank. These include car titles, deeds to your house, Social Security cards, copy of insurance policies, marriage licenses and birth certificates, and wills and death certificates. Caitlin also advises clients to put passports in a safe deposit box as well as a copy of the passports. In her own safe deposit box, she stores a copy of the front and back of her credit cards and valuable jewelry that is uninsured. My safe deposit box contains less than one-third of Caitlin's recommended documents.

MONTHLY BILL RECEIPTS AND BANK STATEMENTS

Caitlin recommends keeping these dating back just two years. But rather than tossing them in a basket, as I've been doing, she recommends a product called the Freedom Filer, which can be found at www.freedomfiler.com. Caitlin says the filing system only holds two years' worth of bills and statements, so it forces you to throw out anything older than that to make room for the new year.

Tax records should be kept for seven years. Have a file with the actual return as well as the related receipts and paperwork. Every year, when you add your most recent return, throw out the oldest return so they don't pile up.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS

Caitlin says anyone with a stock portfolio should call their investment house and ask how long they should save statements in case they sell a stock. She also recommends that we save the end-of-year statements on our retirement accounts and our children's college funds for tax purposes but says we can throw out the monthly statements because they are available online.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

My husband and I are journalists, so there have been years' worth of newspaper clippings laying around the attic. I decided to keep copies of many stories I wrote at the beginning of my career, when I worked for small newspapers that might not have articles available online. In contrast, I saved almost nothing from The Washington Post, where I've worked for the past nine years, because I could find whatever stories I want online.

PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING ELSE

Throw out. In my case, that meant ATM receipts from 10 years ago and a lease agreement for the apartment I lived in when I first moved to Washington nearly a decade ago. One of my favorites for the discard pile: job rejection letters. I must have had more than 40 from newspapers all across the nation covering a five-year span. Why in the world did I keep those?

I did hold on to lots of paper, some of it memorabilia, including a box about details for our wedding, and stuff about our two kids. I also found the original architect's plans to my parents' house in New Jersey. I still own it, so it was fun to look back at not just the plans, but the bills for the mason, electrician and other contractors who worked on the house in 1976. In the end, I bought six large plastic tubs with tight-fitting lids and put my organized piles of family documents and financial records in each one.

This was an arduous, unpleasant task, but now that it's done, I feel great. It's the first time I've believed that the end of this project is in sight, and the reward will be an organized, potentially usable attic.

Balky thermostat is grime victim

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Q: My house thermostat—one of those older, round kinds where you twist the dial to the temperature you want—doesn't seem to work right. It cools the house down to a freezing temperature, then lets the temperature climb back up until we're sweating. I can't figure it out—Harry S., Greenville, S.C.

A: Simple low-voltage thermostats, like the one in your home, are pretty darn reliable and can last for many years. They do pick up a few quirks, however, when grime builds up on the bi-metal coil that acts as the temperature sensor. The coil expands or contracts as the temperature changes, so if it's dirty, it may not expand or contract properly.

You can easily check the condition of the thermostat. Turn off power to the thermostat at the circuit panel and remove the top cover of the unit. Use a circuit tester to make sure no power is flowing through the unit. Turn the dial to its lowest temperature setting. Then inspect the coil, contacts and wire connections. Sweep away dirt with a soft brush (an old watercolor brush will work). Turn the dial to its highest temperature setting to reach the rest of the coil.

While the cover is off, make sure that the wires connecting the unit to the heating/air conditioning system are securely wrapped around their terminals (the little screws behind the dial). Loose connections can be re-wrapped using needle-nose pliers.

One of the nice things about having an older, low-voltage thermostat is that you can easily swap it out for an electronic thermostat, which runs on the same low voltage and so can be hooked up with the same wires as the old thermostat used. Electronic thermostats give you the advantage of precise temperature control and can be programmed to minimize heating or cooling when you aren't at home—saving that much more money.

home tip

HOME TIP: To cool down a house with no central air conditioning, open the door to the cellar (or deep crawlspace) and place a floor fan at the entrance, facing the living area of the house.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Fall forecast: Kitchens

Jennifer Gilmer designed a kitchen with a glass backsplash painted orange. A fall design forecast.
THE WASHINGTON POST

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The kitchen backsplash is getting more colorful, but it has nothing to do with tile.

Back-painted glass is a big trend, says Bethesda, Md.-based kitchen designer Jennifer Gilmer. This style, in which the back of installed glass is painted, is a popular choice because of its contemporary look and the seamless shot of color it provides, she says.

Her showroom window currently features a glass backsplash painted a bright orange. "People like the non-interruption," she says. "No grout lines."

Gilmer also reports that kitchens are simplifying and that more folks are requesting fewer cabinets and more wall space.

Floating shelving can be installed to counter a lack of cabinetry. This type of open storage works best for often-used dishes and glasses. If there's no need for extra storage, the shelving can be used to display collections or artwork, making the space more personal.

Green materials continue to gain momentum, with renewable and engineered woods now included among the standard offerings of many manufacturers. Also on the upswing: Asian accents, Gilmer says. Subtle touches on cabinetry include sliding doors, which can remain open while you cook, and glass doors with horizontal panes of glass to resemble shoji screens.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Summer Squash with Herbs

Fresh mint, oregano and lemon accent tender summer squash.

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 small onion, finely chopped
3 small zucchini (about 6 ounces each), cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick pieces
3 small yellow summer squashes (about 6 ounces each), cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick pieces
1 garlic clove, crushed with garlic press
1 teaspoon chopped fresh oregano
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint
1 teaspoon grated fresh lemon peel
Fresh oregano sprigs for garnish

1. In nonstick 12-inch skillet, heat oil over medium heat until hot. Add onion and cook 5 to 7 minutes or until onion is golden, stirring frequently.

2. Increase heat to medium-high. Add zucchini, yellow squash, garlic, chopped oregano, salt, pepper and 1 tablespoon mint; cook 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender and golden, stirring often.

3. Transfer vegetables to bowl and toss with lemon peel and remaining 1 tablespoon mint. Garnish with oregano sprigs. Makes 6 accompaniment servings.

Buying Vegetables

Expert Tip: When it comes to picking out vegetables, a good rule of thumb is that they feel heavy for their size and are moist (but not wet or sticky). Because vegetables are largely composed of water, this applies to all vegetables—even those as little and light as mushrooms. As their moisture evaporates, vegetables become lighter and drier, losing flavor, weight and succulence. If you're surprised at how light something is when you pick it up, you may well be holding a vegetable with a hollow center or dryish flesh.—Deborah Madison, cookbook author

(c) 2008 Hearst Communications, Inc.

The Good Life

Officer takes Steps to help detention youth

By KATHLEEN MEGAN

(C) 2008, THE HARTFORD COURANT

In his blue Community Partners in Action shirt, Anthony Thomas looks every inch the strait-laced juvenile detention officer. And he is that.

But catch him on a Friday night in his khaki shorts and top with his sparkling star earrings as he leads a bunch of kids at the Ron-A-Roll Skating Rink in Vernon, Conn.—where he's known by his dance name Popkorn—through poppin', lockin' and otherwise hip-hoppin' moves.

Then imagine him combining those worlds and that's exactly what Thomas has managed to do, with the help of the Connecticut Ballet.

Thomas, a Hartford, Conn., resident who got his nickname years ago when he would earn a few dollars by dancing hip-hop on city corners, is a juvenile detention officer at Community Partners in Action's residential detention center for girls. The girls are there for various reasons, including stealing cars, underage drinking and trespassing.

Living at the locked residence, sometimes arguments come up, and that's when Thomas decided a few years ago to reveal his alter ego. He distracted the girls with some dance steps—a funky electric slide, a little popping, a little locking.

"Dancing releases stress; it takes you to another place," said Thomas, 30. "They could take out their frustrations; it relaxes them. They forgot what they were fighting over."

Soon hip-hop lessons with Thomas became a welcome break at the residence, with Thomas even organizing talent shows.

But when Connecticut Ballet got involved, Thomas' efforts—and the presence of dance in youth detention residences all over the state—moved to another level.

Brett Raphael, artistic director of the ballet, said he was expanding the ballet's recreational dance and drumming programs for girls and boys in the residential detention centers in Hartford when he heard about Thomas. (Currently, the ballet has a state contract to bring dance and drumming into residential detention centers.)

Raphael said he saw Thomas' rapport and skill instantly. "You see these boys, bound up with their arms crossed, not even making eye contact," Raphael said. "An hour later they are smiling and jumping up and down."

Thomas started dancing when he was 10 or 11, watching dancers on television for guidance. At his high school, he would give hip-hop performances during lunchtime in the cafeteria.

As he got older, he started dance groups, appearing in amateur night at the Apollo Theater in New York. He's now part of the "Poetry in Motion" dance group.

But he particularly likes working with kids.

"The kids see all the dancing on TV, but they have nowhere to go to learn it," Thomas said. "That's why I'm doing what I do. ... I communicate with these kids; they look up to me.

"I have boys who steal cars, smoke weed, fight each other. When I teach the class, they listen. They pay attention. When they are locked up, I educate them, talk to them, about what's going on, tell them situations. They pay attention."

Bringing dance into the detention centers is part of the court's efforts "to shift our focus in working with these kids toward positive experiences," said Judge Christine E. Keller, chief administrative judge for juvenile matters in Connecticut."Things that they can learn that will improve their self-confidence, boost their interest in something other than their problems, encourage them to explore different and positive things."

Kelly Stutzman, deputy superintendent of juvenile detention, said of Thomas: "His dancing is part of the way that the judicial is looking at taking care of kids, keeping them busy, keeping them involved. ... He is just particularly stellar with them."

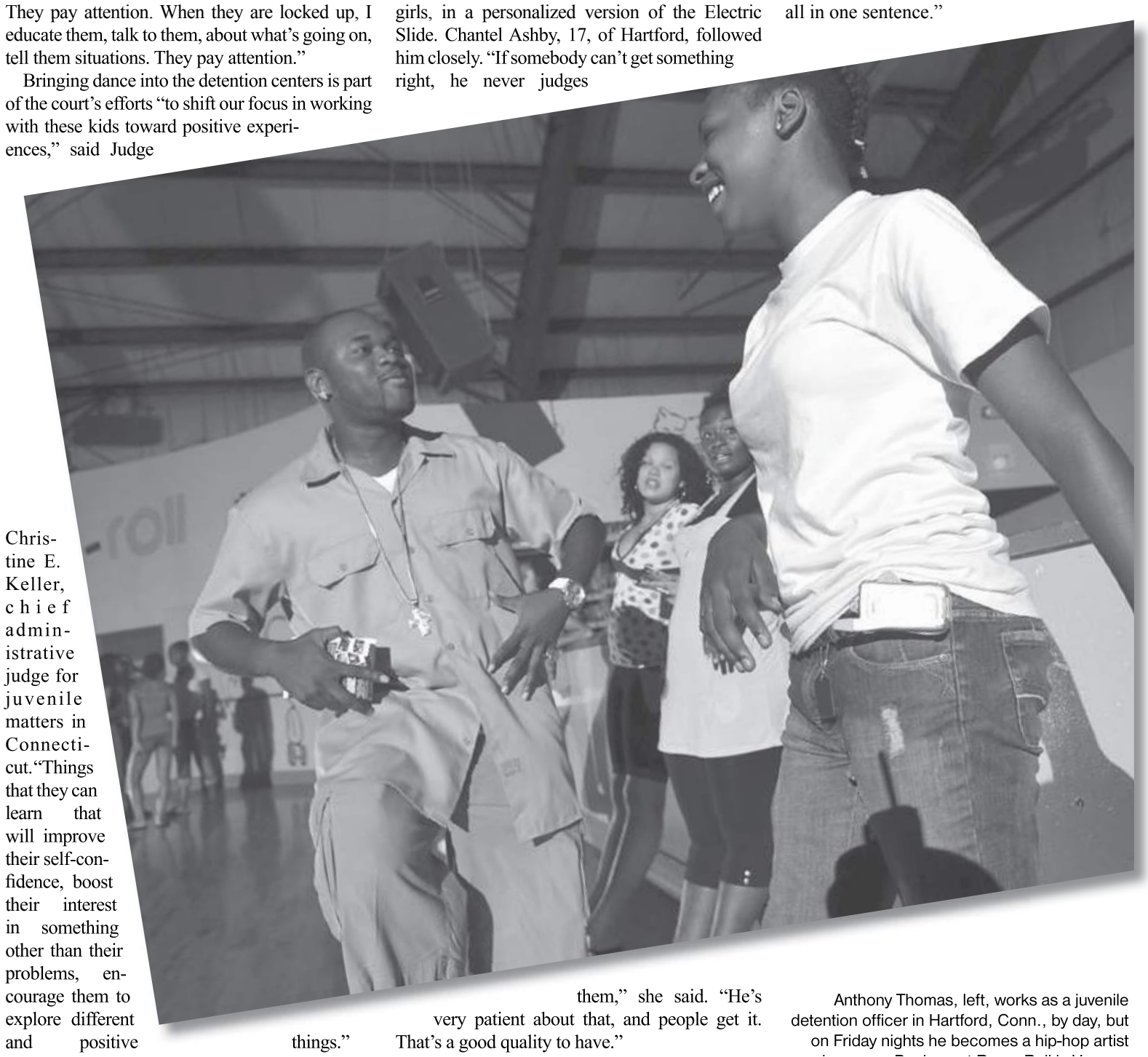
For confidentiality reasons, The Courant was not able to observe the dance lessons at the detention centers or interview the girls involved. But we were able to see Thomas interact with other teens on a recent Friday night at Ron-A-Roll in Vernon. Kids hung out around the rink waiting for "Popkorn" to start. Finally, he appeared, with his foot in a therapeutic boot because of an infection.

Still he took the floor, leading the kids, mostly girls, in a personalized version of the Electric Slide. Chantel Ashby, 17, of Hartford, followed him closely. "If somebody can't get something right, he never judges them," she said. "He's very patient about that, and people get it. That's a good quality to have."

Raphael said Thomas is so successful partly because "he is so conversant in the youth culture vocabulary.

"When I say he connects with kids, I'm talking about culturally. ... He knows the signals, the wording of the song, what's hot and what's not, who went to court. He knows all this stuff that the kids stay up on."

He's also versatile, Raphael said, mixing up dance styles to keep the kids and audiences interested. "It's that flash of technique. Flying around doing loosey-goose things, popping and krumping. ... It would be like me going from jazz to a ballet step to a modern dance floor roll, to getting back up and doing an acrobatic feat all in one sentence."



Anthony Thomas, left, works as a juvenile detention officer in Hartford, Conn., by day, but on Friday nights he becomes a hip-hop artist known as Popkorn at Ron-a-Roll in Vernon, where he teaches dance moves to young adults like Summer Forbes, 15, of Hartford. He also teaches at state juvenile detention residences.

THE HARTFORD COURANT

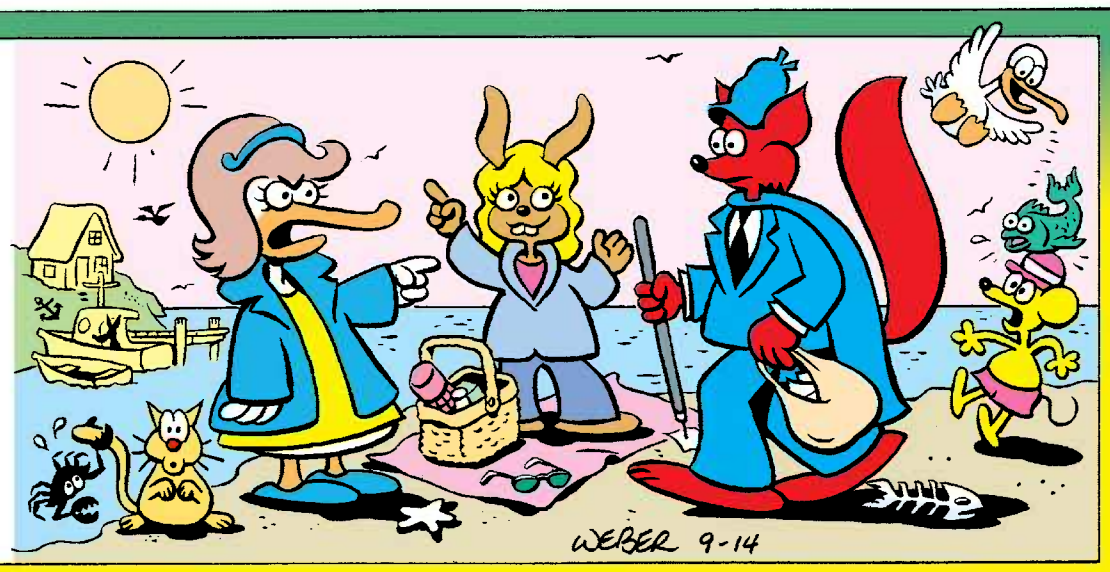
Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

Which scene is slightly different from the other two?

Answer -- Number One.

Rita Rabbit says that while she was watching the sun rise, Doreen Duck tried to sneak up behind her and steal sunglasses off her blanket. Rita says she was alerted to the duck's approach when Doreen's shadow fell over her. The angry duck insists she didn't sneak up behind Rita and never tried to steal the sunglasses. Why does Slylock Fox believe Doreen Duck?

Solution -- Because of the sun's position, Doreen's shadow would not have fallen forward toward Rita.



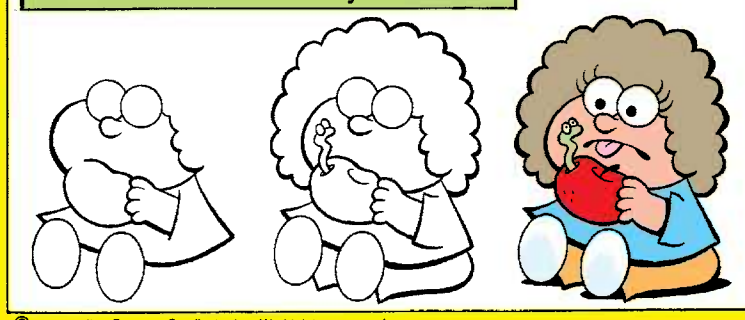
Find six differences between these panels.

www.kidcartoonists.com

Answer -- Chimney, leash, tear drop, rabbit, belly button and tooth.

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4,** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW an icky encounter



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Candice Walker, age 10, of Cape Coral, Florida

Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

When lightning strikes a beach, the sand turns into ...

a) Air
b) Glass
c) Diamonds
d) Water

Answer -- b)

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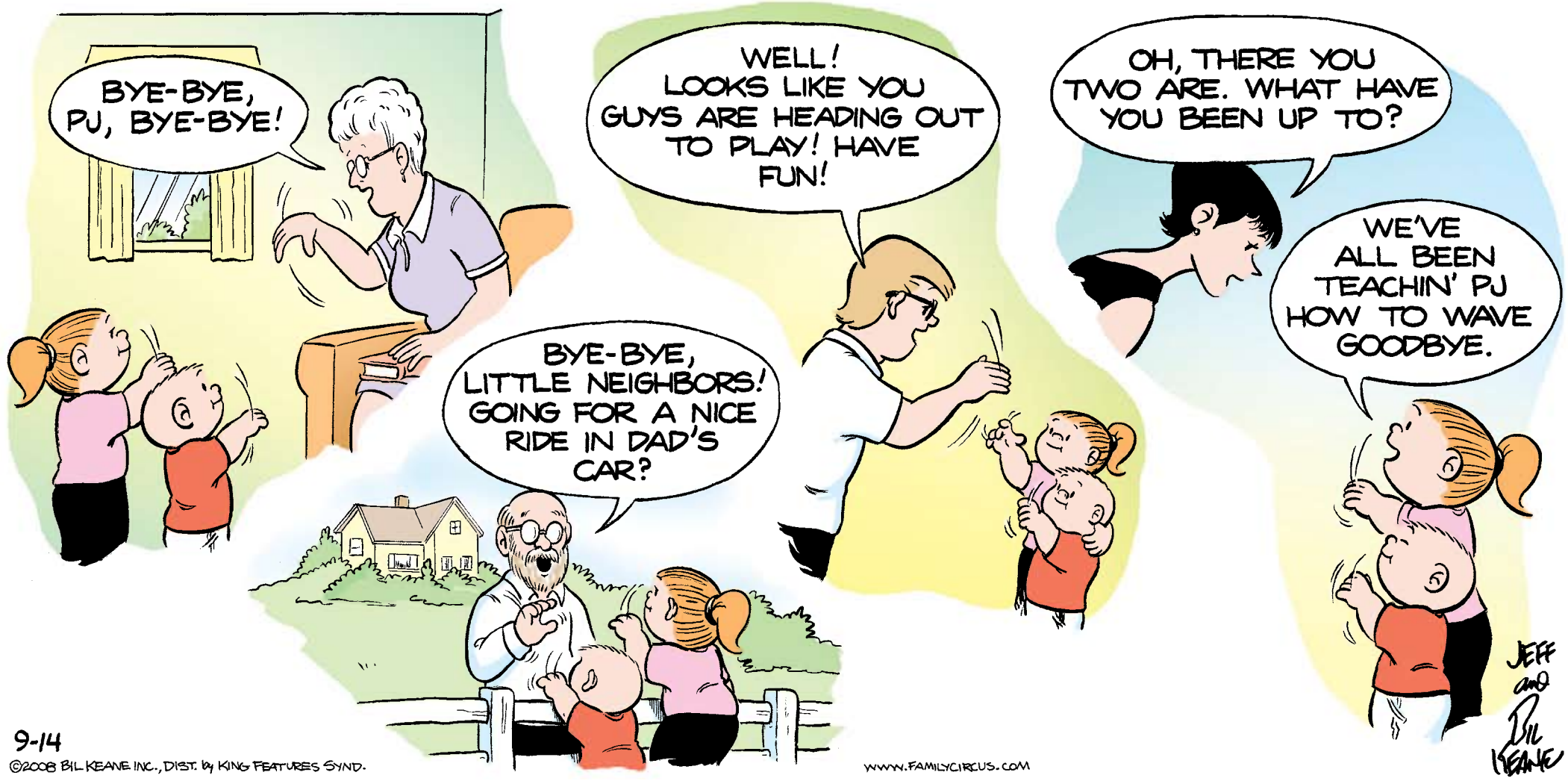
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


BYE-BYE, PJ, BYE-BYE!
WELL! LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE HEADING OUT TO PLAY! HAVE FUN!
OH, THERE YOU TWO ARE. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?
WE'VE ALL BEEN TEACHIN' PJ HOW TO WAVE GOODBYE.
BYE-BYE, LITTLE NEIGHBORS! GOING FOR A NICE RIDE IN DAD'S CAR?
JEFF and BIL KEANE
9-14
©2008 BIL KEANE INC., DIST. by KING FEATURES SYND.
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM

Mort Walker's

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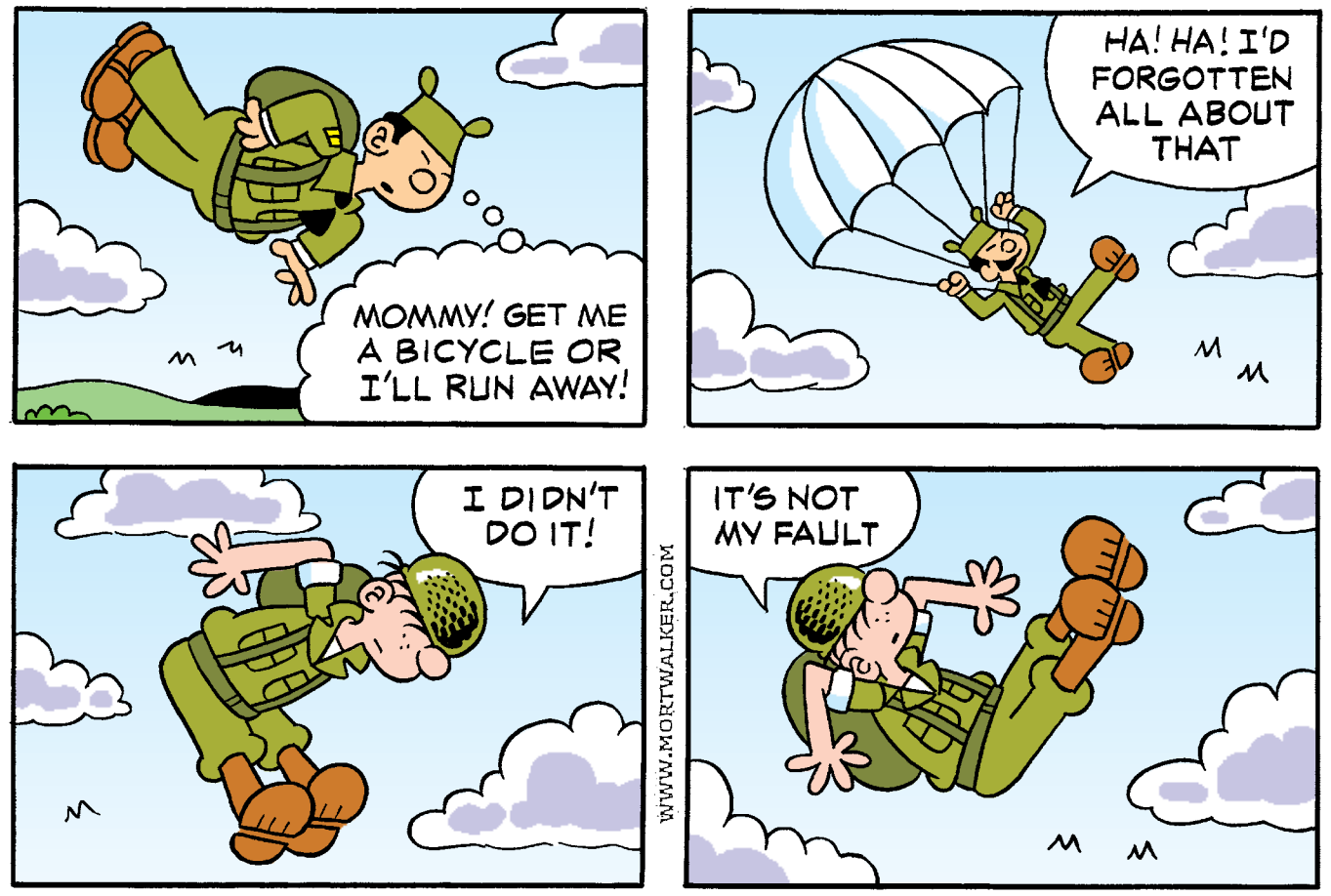

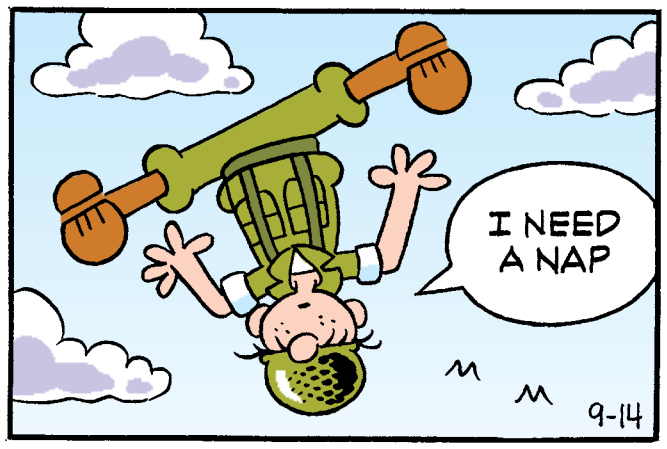

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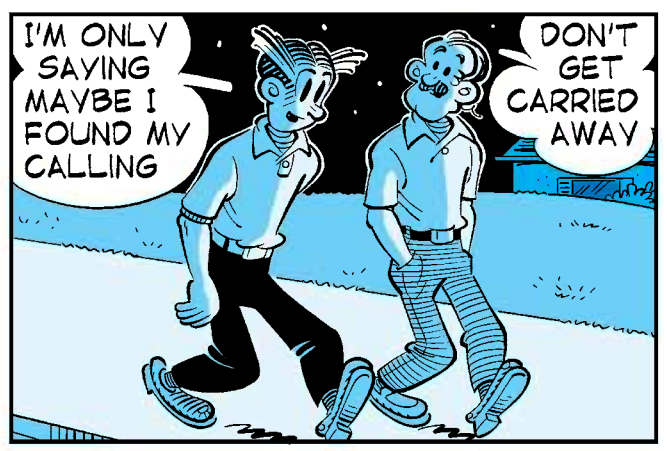
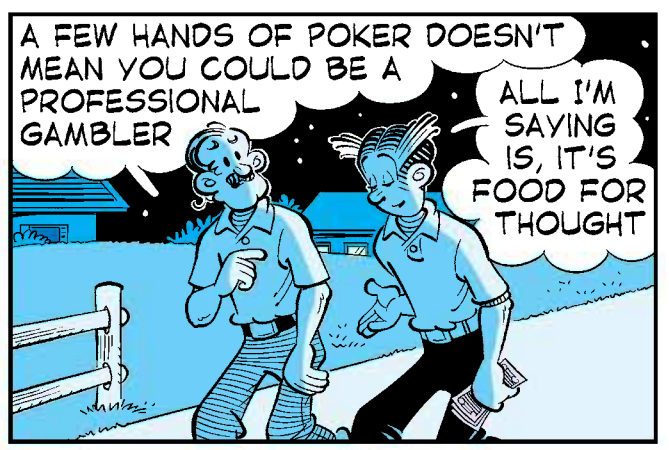
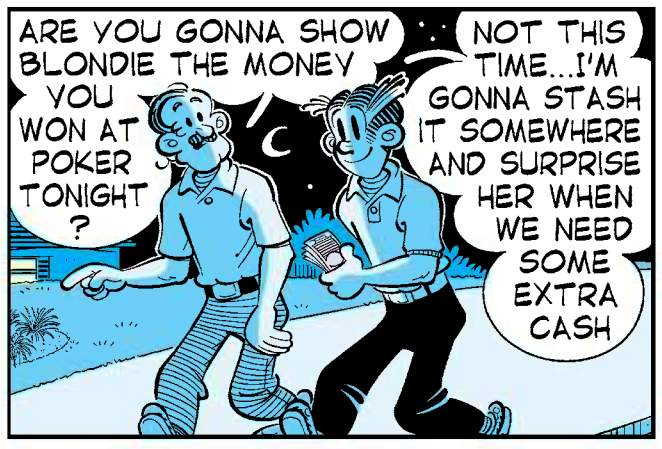
WHERE AM I?
ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW YOUR WHOLE LIFE FLASHES THROUGH YOUR MIND WHEN YOU'RE FREE-FALLING?
YEAH, I KEPT PICTURING MYSELF YELLING AT BEETLE
GREG+ MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

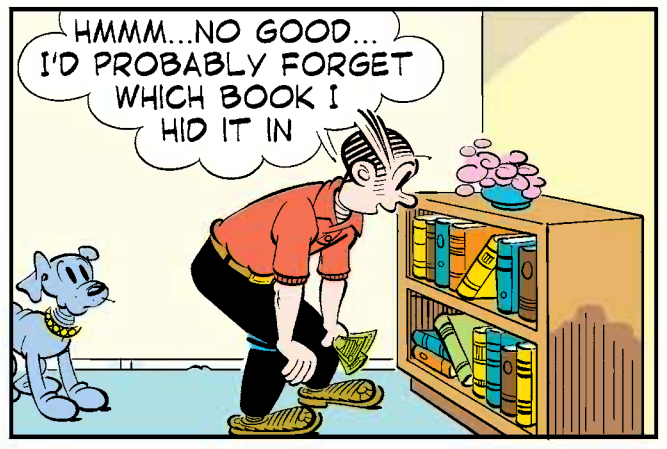
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

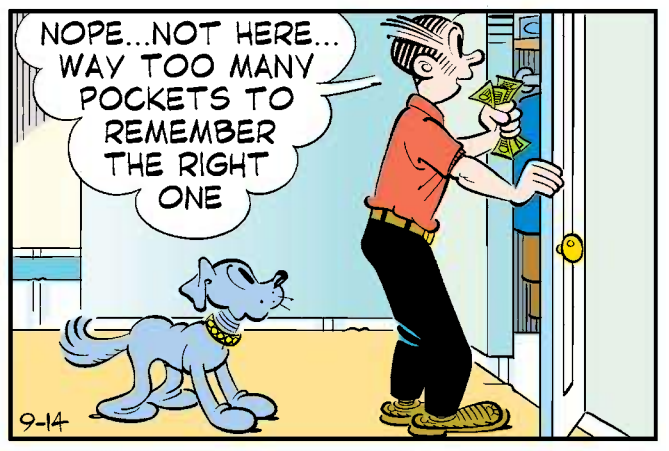


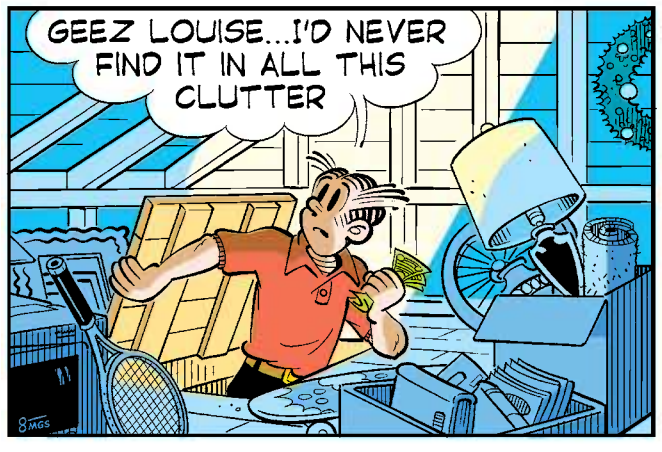



ARE YOU GONNA SHOW BLONDIE THE MONEY YOU WON AT POKER TONIGHT ?
NOT THIS TIME...I'M GONNA STASH IT SOMEWHERE AND SURPRISE HER WHEN WE NEED SOME EXTRA CASH

www.blondie.com







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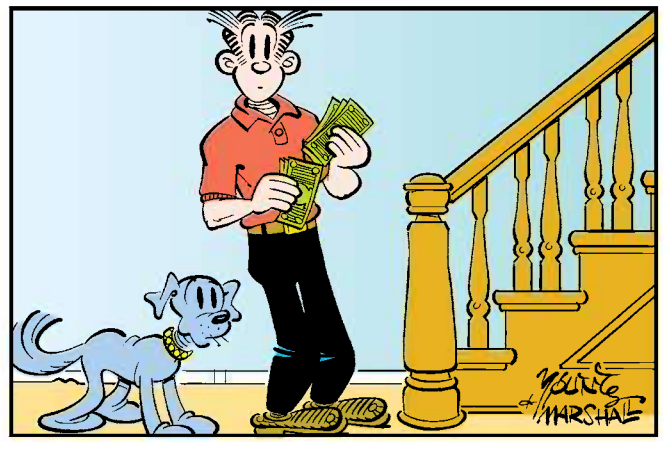
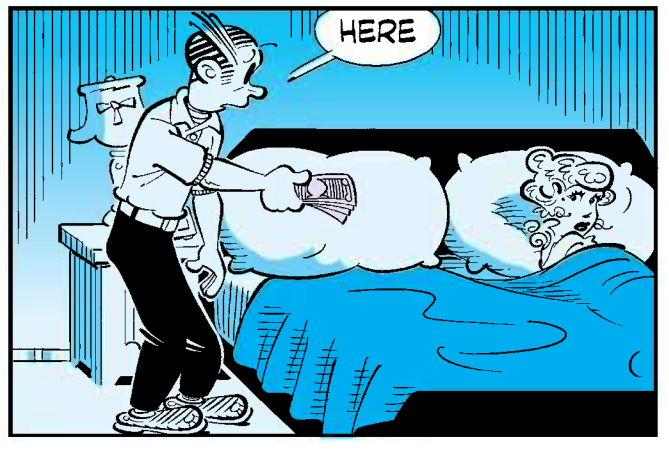
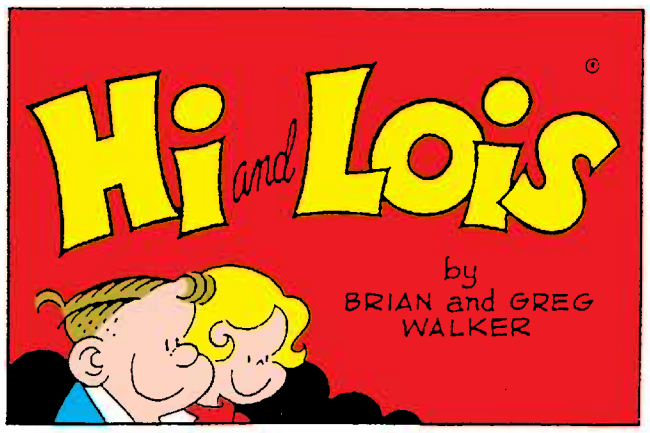




Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER



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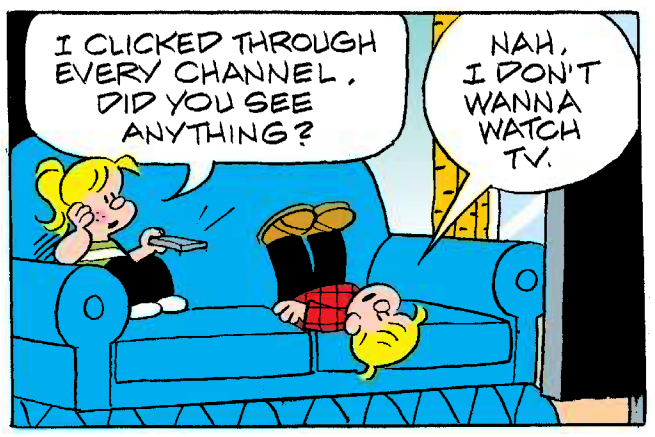
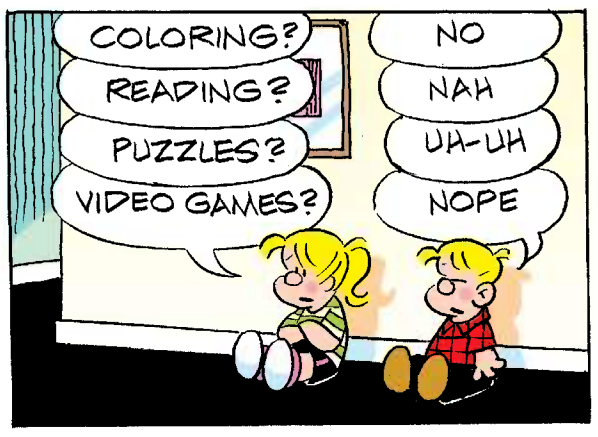
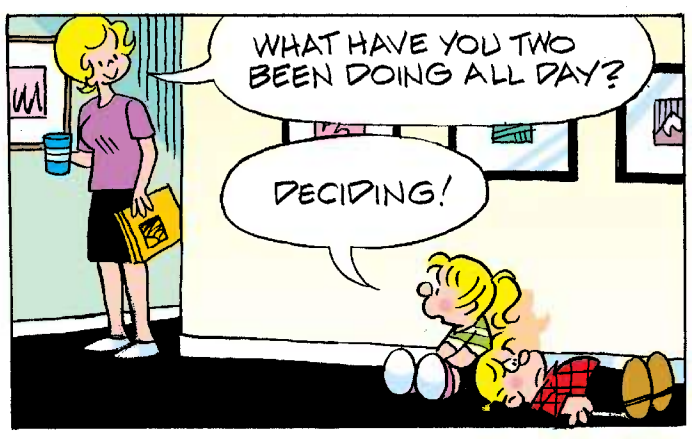
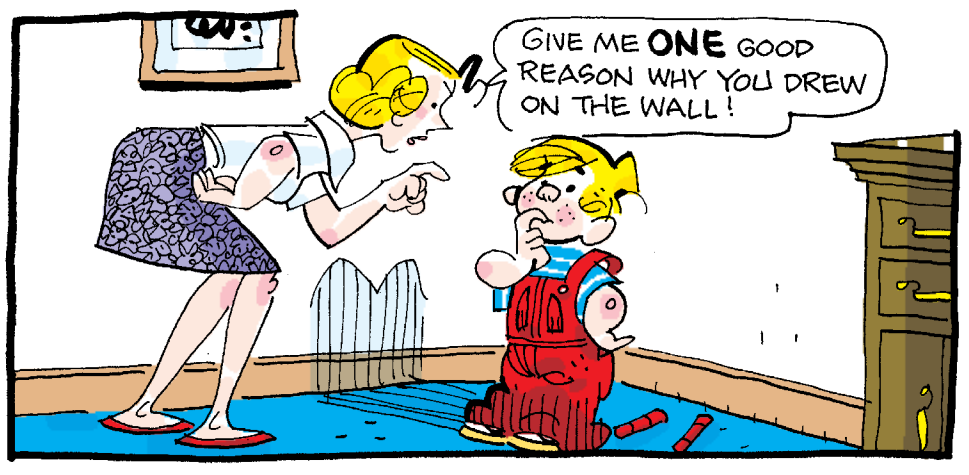


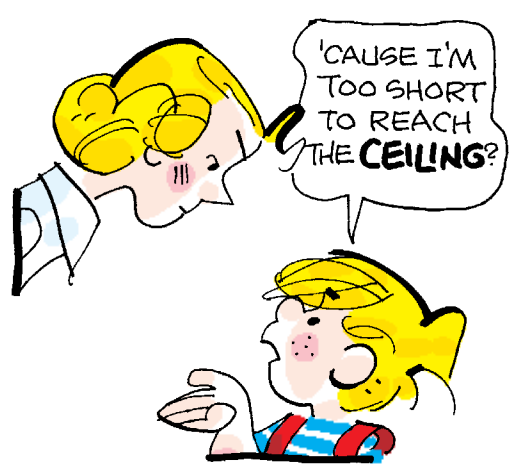


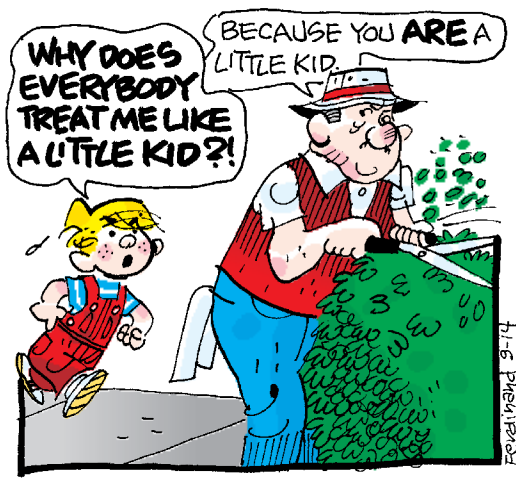


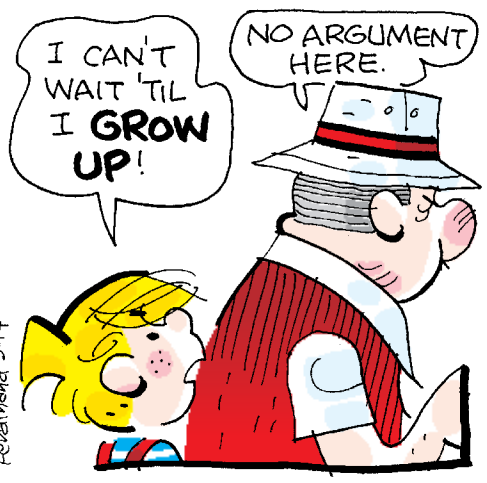
Dennis the Menace

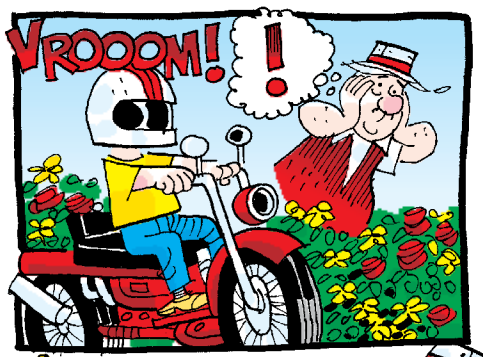
Gimme FIVE!

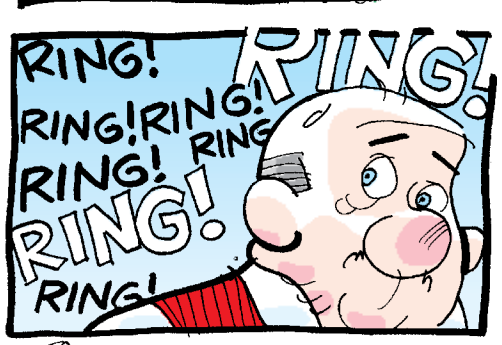


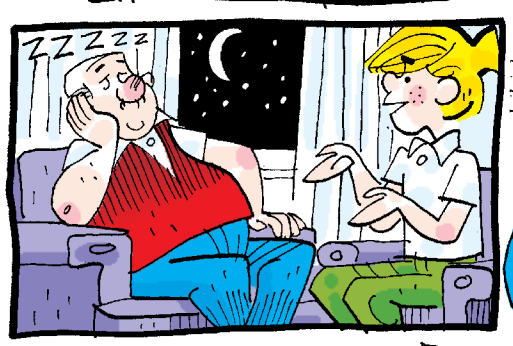




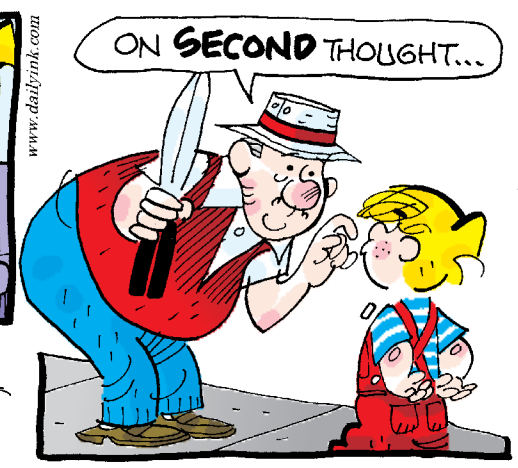


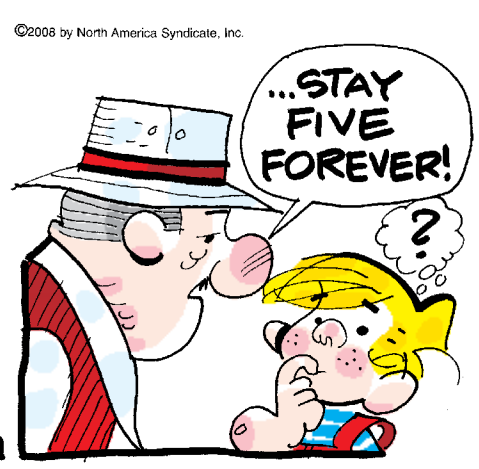






www.dailyink.com





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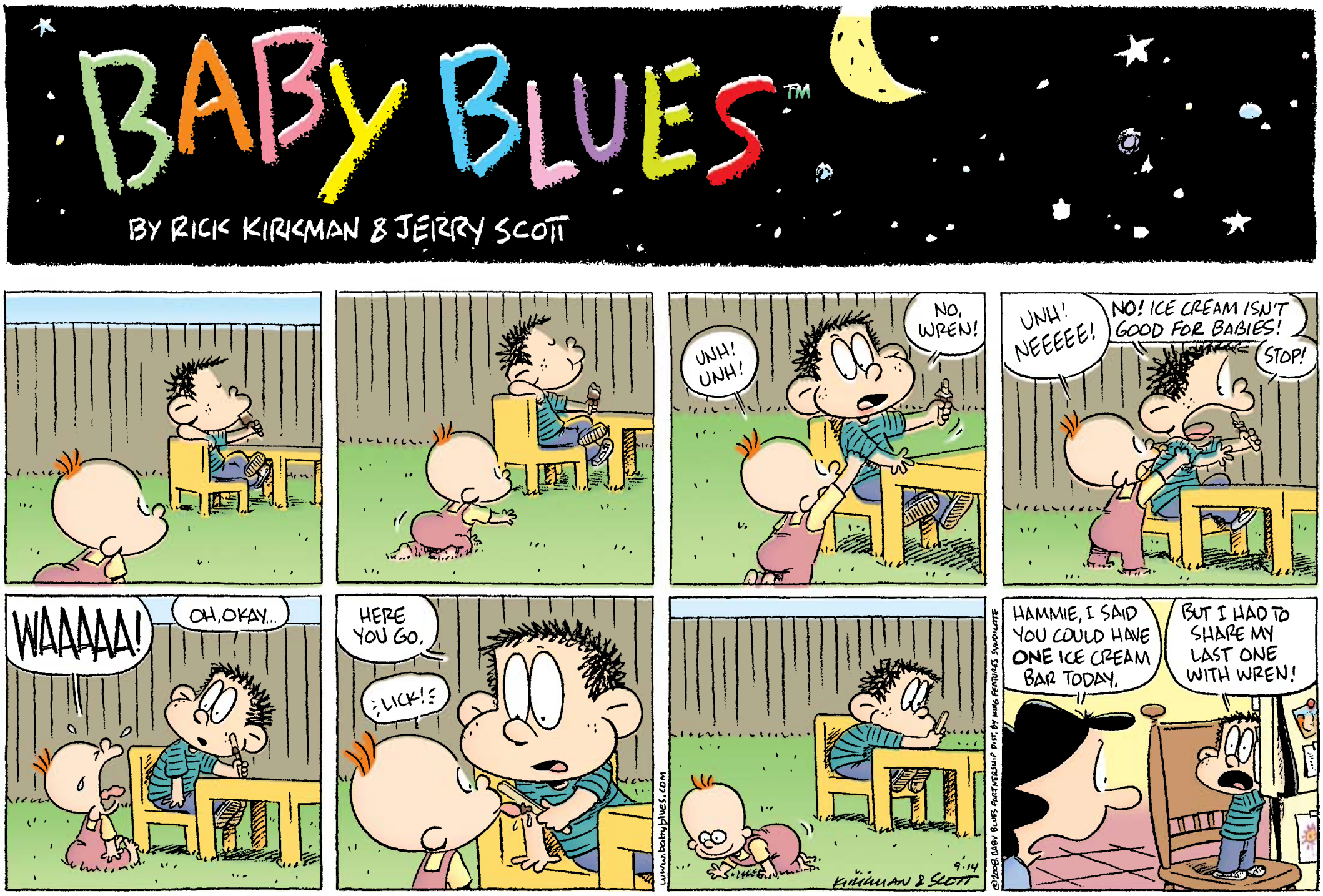
BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
UNH! UNH!
NO, WREN!
UNH! NEEEEE!
NO! ICE CREAM ISN'T GOOD FOR BABIES!
STOP!
WAAAAA!
OH, OKAY...
HERE YOU GO.
:LICK!:
HAMMIE, I SAID YOU COULD HAVE ONE ICE CREAM BAR TODAY.
BUT I HAD TO SHARE MY LAST ONE WITH WREN!
WWW.BABYBLUES.COM
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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With your Arian charm quotient at an almost all-time high this week, plus all the facts to back you up, you just might win over the last doubters to your proposal.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might be in line for that job change you applied for. But be advised that you could be called on to defend your qualifications against supporters of other applicants.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Creating a new approach to an old idea is one way to get beyond that workplace impasse. No such problems in your personal life, where things continue to flow smoothly.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Be more forthcoming about your feelings concerning a proposed change either in your workplace or in your personal life. Your opinions are valuable. Don't keep them hidden.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A changing situation in your life needs more patience than you appear to be willing to offer. Allowing it to develop at its own pace is the wisest course you can take at this time.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) With more stability in your life -- on both personal and professional levels -- this could be a good time to strengthen relationships with both friends and colleagues.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) People have always relied on your integrity not only to get the job done, but to get it done right. So don't be pressured by anyone into cutting corners to save time.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) While others might get rattled over unexpected changes, your ability to adapt calmly and competently helps you make a positive impression during a crucial period.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A changing environment might be daunting for some, but the adventurous Sagittarian takes it all in stride. A friend from the past could awaken some meaningful memories.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) With your self-assurance rising to full strength, the bold Goat should feel confident about opening up to new ventures as well as new relationships.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Reaching out to someone who has been unkind to you might not be easy. But in the long run it will prove to have been the right thing to do. A friend offers moral support.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your keen insight once again helps you work through a seemingly insoluble problem in your workplace. The weekend offers a good chance to develop new relationships.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a knack for finding details that others would overlook. You would make a fine research scientist.

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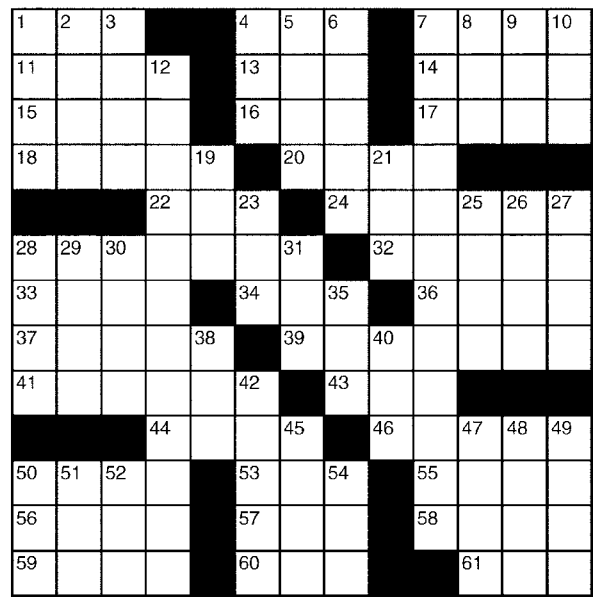
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 See 7-Down
4 Apiece
7 Starter home?
11 Parks of civil-rights fame
13 Idolater's emotion
14 Employ
15 Abba of Israel
16 Clerical title, briefly
17 Otherwise
18 Adolescence
20 Rhine feeder
22 Recede
24 Puts up
28 Suspecting unfaithful ness
32 Summer ermine
33 Approximately
34 Deity
36 Loathe
37 Inappropriate
39 Law student's worry
41 Echo
43 Angry
44 Ship's nose
46 "Twin —"
50 Object of worship
53 Be unwell
55 Canal zone?
56 Prima donna
57 "CSI" evidence
58 Incense
59 Fix, in a sense
60 Evergreen type
61 See 7-Down

DOWN
1 Deuce beater
2 Vagrant
3 Jacob's brother
4 Golf statistic
5 Basin accessory
6 Sketch show
7 With 1-Across, 61-Across, and 12-Down, range
8 Lubricant
9 "— Doubtfire"
10 Spell-down
12 See 7-Down
19 Showtime rival
21 "48 —"
23 Wiretap
25 Wheedle
26 "Farewell"
27 Goblet part
28 Soup du —
29 Sea eagle
30 Pronto, on a memo
31 Weep
35 Weir
38 Pitch
40 Knock
42 Sycophant
45 Sommelier's suggestion
47 Met melody
48 Potter's oven
49 Progeny
50 Egos' counterparts
51 Chips' enhancer
52 Eggs
54 Legislation

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top ten: Happiest Students

1. Clemson University
2. Brown University
3. Princeton University
4. Claremont McKenna College
5. Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
6. Stanford University
7. University of Dayton
8. Bowdoin College
9. The College of New Jersey
10. Tulane University

Source: Princeton Review

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

F	E	D	S	■	A	M	P	■	A	B	L	E
A	M	A	T	■	P	O	I	■	N	E	A	T
L	I	M	A	B	E	A	N	■	G	A	I	N
A	R	E	N	A	■	■	G	L	E	N	D	A
■	■	■	C	R	O	W	■	A	L	P	■	■
J	A	P	E	■	D	I	A	Z	■	O	D	D
I	L	O	■	T	I	T	L	E	■	L	E	I
G	E	L	■	O	N	C	E	■	D	E	E	P
■	■	E	A	R	■	H	E	A	R	■	■	■
B	O	S	N	I	A	■	■	P	A	S	T	A
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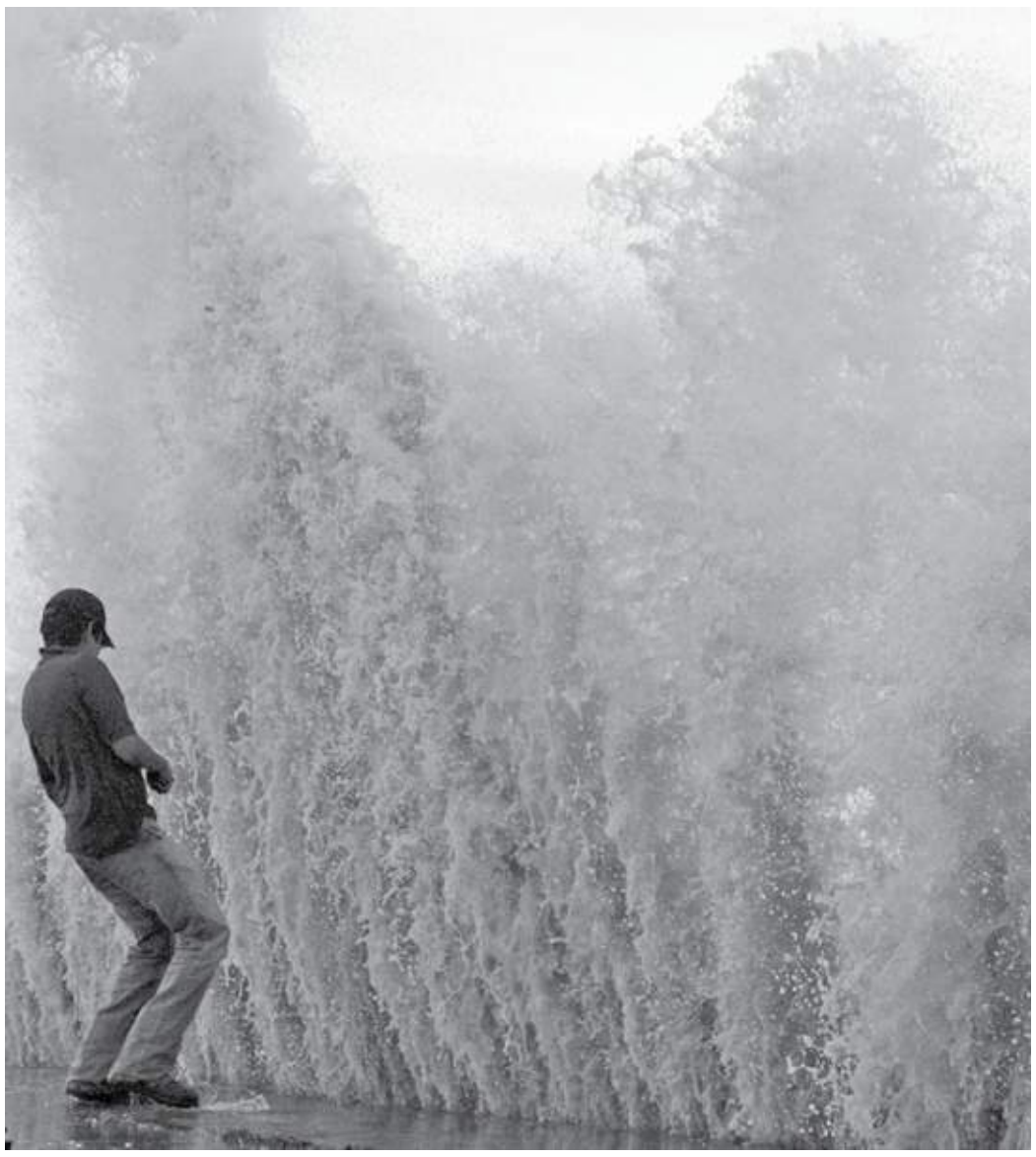
S	O	R	T	■	Y	A	M	■	R	E	E	F

United States

Ike batters Texas coast, cutting power, flooding roads



AP

Daniel Gallegos watches as a wave crashes into the seawall as Hurricane Ike approaches the Texas coast, Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, in Galveston, Texas.

By JUAN A. LOZANO and PAULINE ARRILLAGA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP)—A monster-sized Hurricane Ike bore down on the Texas coast late Friday, threatening to rattle the sparkling skyscrapers of America's fourth-largest city, shut down the heart of the U.S oil industry for days and obliterate waterfront towns already flooded with waist-high water.

Though nearly 1 million people evacuated coastal communities in the days leading up to the storm, tens of thousands ignored calls to leave and decided to tough it out. But as wind-whipped floodwaters began crashing into coastal homes, many changed their minds. Galveston fire crews rescued more than 300 people who were walking through flooded streets, clutching clothes and other belongings as they tried to wade to safety.

AP

Tommy Scarborough supports himself on a post while he gets a lift from the strong winds created by the approaching Hurricane Ike in Bacliff, Texas, Friday, Sept. 12, 2008.

"We were going street by street seeing people who were trying to escape the flood waters," Fire Chief Michael Varela said. "I'm assuming these were people who made the mistake of staying."

At 600 miles (966 kilometers) across, the storm was nearly as big as Texas itself, and threatened to give the state its worst pounding in a generation. It was on track to crash ashore early Saturday near Galveston, the same site that suffered the nation's worst natural disaster when a legendary storm struck without warning and killed 6,000 more than a century ago.

Officials were growing increasingly worried about the stalwarts, and many communities imposed curfews to discourage looters. Authorities in three counties alone said roughly 90,000 stayed behind, despite a warning from forecasters that many of those in one- or two-story homes on the coast faced "certain death."

With heavy bands of rain and high winds moving in, rescue crews were forced to retreat and leave the stubborn to fend for themselves. Firefighters left a boat and yacht warehouse in Galveston in flames because water was too high for fire trucks to navigate.

"I believe in the man up there, God," said William Steally, a 75-year-old retiree who planned to ride out the storm in Galveston without his wife or sister-in-law. "I believe he will take care of me."

A disabled 584-foot (178-meter) freighter with 22 men aboard was left tossing about in the waves because winds were too dangerous for aircraft. Late Friday, the Coast Guard reported the crew was still safe after weathering the brunt of the storm, and a tugboat was set to arrive noon Saturday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Alaska lawmakers vote to subpoena Todd Palin

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—The abuse of power investigation against Sarah Palin, Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential candidate, took a potentially ominous turn for her party on Friday when state lawmakers voted to subpoena her husband. Republican efforts to delay the probe until after the Nov. 4 election were thwarted when GOP State Sen. Charlie Huggins, who represents Palin's hometown of Wasilla, sided with Democrats. "Let's just get the facts on the table," said Huggins, who appeared in camouflage pants to vote during a break from moose hunting. The Senate committee acted at the request of investigator Stephen Branchflower, who is gathering evidence on whether Gov. Palin abused her power by firing Walt Monegan, the state's director of public safety.

Woman who slashed Mo. mom, took baby gets 30 years

UNION, Mo. (AP)—A woman who slashed a young mother's throat and kidnapped her newborn in rural eastern Missouri, setting off a frantic search that drew national attention, was sentenced Friday to 30 years in prison. The woman Shannon Torrez attacked two years ago testified at her sentencing hearing. Stephenie Ochsenbine said she remembered being covered in blood and pleading with Torrez while her 1-year-old son, who also was covered in his mother's blood, watched the attack. Torrez, 38, of Lonedell, entered an Alford plea in May to one count each of child kidnapping, armed criminal action and first-degree assault. She did not admit guilt with her plea but conceded there was enough evidence for a guilty verdict. Prosecutor Robert Parks said Torrez will serve at least 25 1/2 years in prison.

US stops being polite as spat with Venezuela grows

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States stopped trying to be polite Friday in an escalating diplomatic shoving match with the populist leaders of Venezuela and Bolivia. Washington slapped new sanctions on three aides close to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and called him weak and desperate. The Venezuelan ambassador got the boot for good measure, a move that was purely for show. Chavez had already brought his man home. "Those who shout the loudest are not making the real news in the Americas," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said after Chavez used bathroom profanity to accuse the Americans of meddling in Latin America.

Colo. plant and Somali workers fight over prayer

DENVER (AP)—Tensions have flared between Somali workers and officials at a Colorado meatpacking plant over when employees can break for prayer during the Muslim observance of Ramadan. Religious discord between U.S. factories and Muslim workers is nothing new, but a spokesman for the D.C.-based Council on American-Islamic Relations said he's never seen a conflict escalate to the point it has at the JBS Swift & Co. meatpacking plant in Greeley. The conflict in Greeley began Sept. 5, when about 220 workers, according to Swift estimates, walked out during the evening shift, blaming the company's refusal to allow their breaks to coincide with sunset so they could pray.

At least 10 dead in LA commuter train wreck

AP

Los Angeles City Fire Department firefighters and other local fire and rescue agencies work to free trapped victims from a Metrolink commuter train after a train crash in Los Angeles on Friday, Sept. 12, 2008.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A commuter train carrying 222 people collided head-on with a freight train during the Friday afternoon rush, killing at least 10 people, injuring dozens and trapping an unknown number of others in a passenger car crushed by its own engine.

Firefighters extinguished a blaze under part of the wreckage and were working hours after the collision to free people from the destroyed commuter car, which was left toppled on its side with the train's engine shoved back inside it. Two other cars in the Metrolink train remained upright.

The Union Pacific freight train's engine was also turned onto its side, with the rest of the train splayed out like an accordion behind it.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa told reporters at the scene that 10 people were confirmed dead and that the toll could go to 15. He said the number of injured was probably more than 100.

"This is the worst accident I've ever seen," Villaraigosa said. "Clearly the injuries are going to mount and so are the fatalities."

Police Lt. John Romero said the death toll was 10 to 20.

Fire Chief Dennis Barry said the Metrolink locomotive was deeply embedded into the passenger car.

Asia

Philippines recovers $3.5M from Marcos hidden wealth

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government received about US$3.5 million from the estate of former President Ferdinand Marcos on Friday, bringing the total amount of improperly obtained wealth recovered from the dictator to US$1.93 billion since he was ousted 22 years ago, an official said.

Nic Suarez, spokesman for the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency assigned to recover Marcos' alleged ill-gotten wealth, said another 20 billion pesos (US$425 million) worth of assets, including real estate and stock market shares, have been recovered but not yet sold.

An estimated 200 billion pesos (US$4.26 billion) in cash and assets is also being sought through litigation in an anti-graft court, Suarez said.

By law, the recovered Marcos' assets are used to fund the government's 20-year-old land reform program. "We have been very faithful in remitting to the national treasury," Suarez said.

Marcos ruled the Philippines for 20 years until he was toppled in a "people power" revolt in 1986. He and his family fled into exile in Hawaii and he died three years later in Honolulu without admitting any wrongdoing.

The Marcos funds received Friday came from the sale of shares in a holding company allegedly used as a front to hide the late dictator's interests in the Manila Bulletin newspaper. The Supreme Court declared last November the shares were ill-gotten and the government was the real owner.

'Kim well enough to brush teeth'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Officials believe North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has recovered enough from a stroke to brush his own teeth but that sporadic spasms forced him to skip his country's 60th anniversary celebrations, reports said Friday.

Kim, 66, is lucid and has no trouble speaking, according to a high-level Chinese official who met in recent weeks with the North Korean leader in Pyongyang, the South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo reported, citing an unidentified source in Beijing.

But the Chinese official had predicted that Kim would miss Tuesday's anniversary ceremony, the official was quoted as saying. The report did not give further details.

Kim is the object of an intense personality cult in the totalitarian nation, and the sight of him with spasms before hundreds of thousands of people would have been an embarrassment for the regime.

Thailand's Samak gives up bid for PM's job

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's ousted prime minister on Friday abandoned his bid to regain his job but the surprise move failed to appease protesters who responded with a call to purge the entire Cabinet.

Former Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej also said he would give up leadership of the ruling party, according to his aide Teerapon Noprampa.

The announcements came after Samak's People's Power Party said it would not try to reinstall Samak. That surprise decision was a clear sign that the ruling party sees the blunt-speaking conservative as a liability.

Samak, 73, has antagonized many segments of Thai society during four decades in politics, including the media and the military.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australia, Philippines sign tsunami warning agreements

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Australia and the Philippines signed agreements Friday enabling them to receive real-time data on any earthquake that could cause a tsunami, information that would come from an organization overseeing a treaty banning nuclear explosions. The Vienna-based Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization said data it collects at its monitoring facilities, which are set up to detect nuclear explosions, could be transmitted within 30 seconds and give authorities two and a half minutes of additional warning. That vital time could be used to alert the public ahead of the devastating waves.

Pakistan could end cooperation in war on terror

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The furor intensified Friday over Washington's decision to pursue Islamic militant targets inside Pakistan, with opposition lawmakers threatening the country could pull out of the war on terror if the U.S. refuses to respect its borders. About 100 protesters burned American flags after the latest missile attack left at least 12 people dead in the North Waziristan region of the troubled northwest. Residents said they heard the sound of propeller-driven U.S. Predator drones circling overhead before the explosions. President Bush secretly approved more aggressive cross-border operations in July, current and former American officials have told The Associated Press.

China blames dairy farms for tainted baby formula

BEIJING (AP)—Investigators believe dairy farmers added a dangerous chemical to milk that has been linked to kidney stones in dozens of babies and one death in China's latest product safety scandal. The government vowed "serious punishment" on Friday after China's biggest milk powder producer recalled 700 tons of baby formula. The official Xinhua News Agency said the powder was tainted with melamine, a toxic chemical used in plastics that contaminated pet food last year. U.S. authorities warned American consumers to avoid all Chinese infant formula. Although Chinese formula is not approved for import into the United States, it might be sold at ethnic grocery stores, the Food and Drug Administration said.

20 militants, 5 guards killed in Afghan clashes

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants attacked a supply convoy in western Afghanistan on Friday, sparking a clash that killed 10 insurgents and five Afghan guards, an official said. At least 10 more militants were killed by U.S.-led coalition troops north of Kabul. The convoy was ambushed in western Farah province, setting off a gunfattle between the attackers and the private Afghan guards protecting the trucks, Farah Gov. Roohulla Amin said. He said 10 militants and five security guards were killed, Amin said. Three other guards were missing and believed captured by the Taliban, he said. Separately, U.S.-led coalition troops killed more than 10 militants and detained two others during two separate raids, the coalition said in a statement.

World

AP

A British soldiers is seen on guard, after a roadside bomb explosion in Basra, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, Sept. 12, 2008.

Will Iraq squander gains of surge?

By ROBERT H. REID
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. troop surge did what it aimed: Calm Iraq down. But now, an increasing number of U.S. officials are worried that the hard-won drop in violence may be only temporary.

The fear: that Iraq may squander this period of relative calm, failing to reach the difficult political deals the surge was designed to allow—and thus setting the stage for another round of violence some day.

The worry is behind U.S. military leaders' constant warning that Iraq's current calm may not endure. Defense Secretary Robert Gates was the latest, saying this week that U.S. military commanders do not yet believe "our gains are necessarily enduring."

Their concerns were underlined by a car bombing Friday night in the mainly Shiite town of Dujail, 50 miles north of Baghdad. The blast, which Iraqi officials said killed more than 30 people and wounded scores more, was the latest in a series of attacks in areas north of the capital.

Iraqi leaders face major challenges in the coming months, even as the effectiveness of the surge remains a hot-button topic in the U.S. presidential race.

If the Iraqis lack the necessary political skill or desire to compromise, those challenges would lay the ground for a new wave of violence.

Ironically, the Iraqi government's newfound strength could tempt the Shiite leadership to resist calls for compromise with its rivals.

"We have to admit to shortcomings in the practice of democracy," parliament speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani acknowledged this week. "And we are lacking a spirit of consensus."

Exhibit A: The Iraqi government's delay in integrating Sunni armed men into the country's police and armed forces. U.S. officials insist the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki intends to do so starting next month.

About 20 percent of the armed men—many of them ex-insurgents who volunteered to join local security forces—will go into the army and police. The rest will be placed in civilian government jobs.

WORLD BRIEFS

Court win opens way for Zuma presidency in SAfrica

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa (AP)—The man likely to be South Africa's next president emerged victorious Friday from a corruption case that dogged him eight years, getting a hero's welcome from supporters hungry for a charismatic leader who understands the pain of poverty. Jacob Zuma, a 66-year-old former guerrilla chief who already survived a rape scandal to rise to the leadership of the governing African National Congress, cleared a legal hurdle to his presidential ambitions when a judge dismissed fraud, money laundering and corruption charges. While he is lionized by the impoverished masses, Zuma is struggling to connect with nervous business leaders and foreign investors, who worry whether he harbors radical economic ideas.

Pentagon team to assess Georgia's military needs

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—In a delicate mission, a U.S. Defense Department team is coming to assess Georgia's military needs after its war with Russia, a show of support that is certain to stoke Moscow's anger. American help in rebuilding Georgia's armed forces, regardless of the scale, could harden lines in the standoff between Moscow and Washington over the future of this pro-Western nation that straddles a key pipeline route from the oil fields of Central Asia. Russia has withdrawn most of the troops who drove deep into Georgia after repelling a Georgian offensive against separatist South Ossetia. But the Kremlin says it plans a long-term military presence in South Ossetia and another breakaway region, Abkhazia.

English Channel tunnel reopens after fire

CALAIS, France (AP)—Freight trains began rolling late Friday through the undersea tunnel that revolutionized travel between France and England, after firefighters extinguished an intense blaze that shut down service for more than a day. Operator Eurotunnel said the traffic had resumed, in one of the two tunnels. Sleek high-speed Eurostar passenger trains that also use the tunnel will resume a reduced service Saturday morning, said France's rail operator. Firefighters endured extreme temperatures and cramped quarters as they put out the blaze. The fire deep under the English Channel left the British Isles cut off from continental Europe other than by sea or air—the only routes that existed before the undersea tunnel opened to passengers in 1994.

Focus

AP

In this July 29, 2008 file photo large pieces of ice are seen drifting off after separating from the Ward Hunt Ice Shelf. A chunk of ice shelf nearly the size of Manhattan has broken away from Ellesmere Island in Canada's northern Arctic, another dramatic indication of how warmer temperatures are changing the polar frontier, scientists said Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008.

melting arctic ocean opens new shipping frontier

BARROW, Alaska (AP)—Rapidly melting ice on Alaska's Arctic is opening up a new navigable ocean in the extreme north, allowing oil tankers, fishing vessels and even cruise ships to venture into a realm once trolled mostly by indigenous hunters.

The Coast Guard expects so much traffic that it opened two temporary stations on the nation's northernmost waters, anticipating the day when an ocean the size of the contiguous United States could be ice-free for most of the summer.

"We have to prepare for the world coming to the Arctic," said Rear Adm. Gene Brooks, commander of the Coast Guard's Alaska district.

Scientists say global warming has melted the polar sea ice each summer to half the size it was in the 1960s, opening vast stretches of water. Last year, it thawed to its lowest level on record.

The rapid melting has raised speculation that Canada's Northwest Passage linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans could one day become a regular shipping lane. And there is a huge potential for natural resources in a region that may contain as much as 25 percent of the world's undiscovered oil and gas.

But scientists caution that it could be centuries before the Arctic is completely ice-free all year round.

Still, conservative estimates indicate the Arctic Ocean will be ice-free in the summer within 20 years, although some scientists believe that will occur much sooner.

As it thaws, the receding ice has made ocean travel along Alaska's northern coast increasingly alluring, but ships can still be trapped by ice. Earlier in August, three oil industry vessels bound for Canada became stuck in ice about 60 miles north of Point Barrow. The Coast Guard sent the icebreaker Healy to help, but before it could arrive from 300 miles away, the wind shifted and pushed the ice apart, freeing the vessels.

"They were able to get away," Brooks said. "The problem with this ice is it's very unpredictable."

Because of such risks, the Coast Guard established temporary bases this month in Barrow, the country's highest-latitude town, and at the North Slope's Prudhoe Bay, the nation's largest oil field. The bases will operate for a few weeks while Guard officials evaluate the need for the agency's services.

The Northwest Passage is also increasingly popular with tourists.

Chuck Cross has been leading excursions to the North Pole with his Bend, Ore.-based Polar Cruises since 1991, and he's noticed a big change over the years.

"It's amazing to me when I go to the pole how thin the ice is, huge open spots of water in some areas," he said. "Before, you spent more time getting there and more time in the ice. We'd have helicopters looking for breaks in the water for us."

The thaw has added urgency to the race among neighboring nations to claim a piece of the North Pole's resources. The U.S. is compiling mapping data that could bolster any claims for drilling rights.

AP

This is an undated file photo provided by Subhankar Banerjee, shows a polar bear in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Many countries have launched scientific expeditions, hoping to take advantage of a provision in international law that allows nations to claim rights over their continental shelf beyond the normal boundary of 200 nautical miles, if the claim can be supported with geologic evidence.

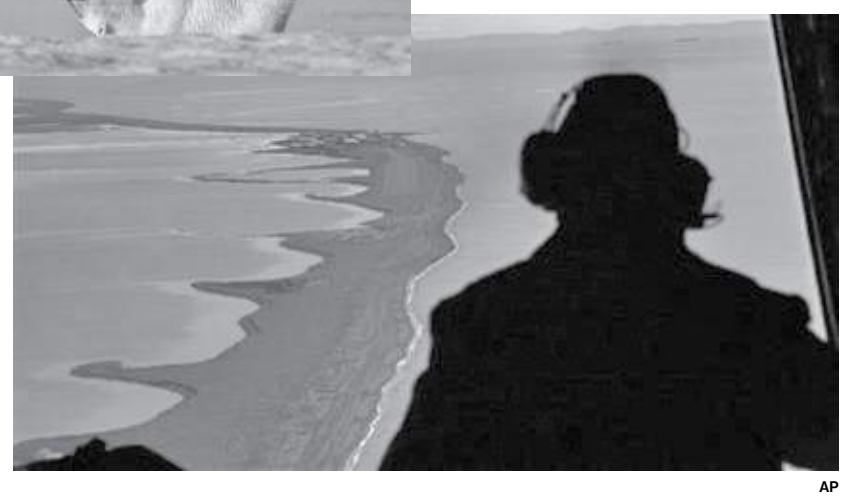
The Coast Guard is concerned that the increasing volume of ship traffic brings greater potential for oil spills, lost boaters and other mishaps.

"We have to ask ourselves whether we're prepared for these ships coming to our shores," said Mead Treadwell, who chairs the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. He testified in Congress this summer about the need to build new Coast Guard icebreakers to better protect traffic in its Arctic waterways.

Before the Coast Guard opened its base in Barrow, the nearest station where ships could stop for fuel and provisions was Alaska's Kodiak Island, almost 1,000 miles away.

Richard Glenn, an official with Arctic Slope Regional Corp., a Barrow-based company that represents the business interests of Alaska Natives, said the Coast Guard's arrival in his community is "like bread to starving people."

"When everything goes wrong—fall-time storms, tragic loss of vessels, lost people on land—there's nothing that's ever been so far away than the Coast Guard."



AP

Aviation Maintenance Tech 2 John Ferrari looks out of the back of a Coast Guard C-130 as he surveys the coast near the village of Kivalina Alaska during a surveillance flight to the Arctic, Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008.

The town of 4,000 people has welcomed the agency and even supplied hangers for two helicopters.

But the warming climate has also disrupted an ancient way of life for many in the region, particularly hunters who use the floating ice as platforms for hunting marine mammals like bowhead whales and walrus. The same ice is vital to survival of polar bears, which are the first species declared as threatened because of climate change.

Snow also thaws much earlier each spring than in the past, meaning hunters can't travel as far along the tundra after it turns soggy. And the late arrival of fall affects weather patterns, creating dangerous sea currents and strong winds.

To adjust, Arctic communities hold later hunts, take smaller whales and share their food with others who have less to eat.

"It's affecting our hunting practices in more ways than one," said Harry Brower Jr., chairman of the Barrow-based Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. "If you take a step back and look at it, you definitely see the changes."

The head of the Coast Guard, Adm. Thad Allen, carefully avoids the debate over climate change. It's too early to say what the Coast Guard's future operations here will be, but Allen is certain his agency will have a key role as the Arctic landscape is transformed by warmer temperatures.

"I'm agnostic to the science and the debate about what the cause is," he said. "All I know is there's water where there didn't used to be."

Life & Style

LA prosecutor: Fashion designer was sex predator

By GREG RISLING
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fashion designer Anand Jon Alexander ditched his profession and turned into a serial predator, hunting for girls and young women to have humiliating and painful sex with him, a prosecutor said Friday during opening statements of his trial.

Prosecutor Frances Young told the jury that Alexander was excited by luring aspiring fashion models to his Beverly Hills apartment and then forcing them to perform oral sex, inappropriately touching them or raping them.

Young said the 34-year-old designer kept a "conquest list" in which he noted some of his encounters with the girls and women, abbreviating the explicit sexual acts.

"He talks about violently having sex with underage girls," Young said.

"These things are windows into his soul and what excites him," the prosecutor said.

Alexander is accused of meeting women on the Internet and assaulting them when they visited California seeking modeling opportunities between 2001 and 2007.

Alexander

Before opening statements, prosecutors dropped four more counts that had been pending against Alexander. He now faces 25 counts including forcible rape and committing lewd acts on a child. The nine alleged victims were 14 to 21 years old. Last month, prosecutors dropped more than half the original charges.

He has pleaded not guilty. He could face life in prison if convicted.

Defense attorney Leonard Levine countered in his opening statement that the only humiliation in the case was that the women never became models and were angry at Alexander because he made them do various chores while they visited him.

"They weren't lured to be here, they wanted to be here," Levine said. "They were too angry that they had been used.

"We build our celebrities up, but in many cases we can't wait to tear them down."

Levine added that if there was any sex involving Alexander, it was consensual, noting that some of the underage girls claimed they were 18 years old. Levine also questioned why many of the victims didn't go straight to police, but instead only came forward after Alexander was arrested.

"Were they not reported because nothing happened?" asked Levine.

The investigation began last year when a woman claimed she had been sexually assaulted at Alexander's apartment. He was jailed in June 2007 and has remained behind bars.

Prosecutors played two videos allegedly taken by Alexander in which he directs two girls to show their bodies to him. In one, a 17-year-old girl disrobed. Young said the fashion designer then began touching the girl.

"She will tell you this was the worst experience of her life," Young said.

Alexander, wearing a dark suit and his jet black hair in a ponytail, smiled in the direction of his sister as he entered the courtroom.

Alexander also is under indictment in New York on similar charges involving nine women and is under investigation by authorities in Texas and Massachusetts.

Born in India, Alexander graduated from the Parsons School of Design in New York and launched a fashion line in 1999. He was considered an up-and-coming designer and was named a person to watch by Newsweek.

Queen gives charity concert in Ukraine

KHARKIV, Ukraine (AP)—Queen sang to tens of thousands of Ukrainians in a charity concert meant to raise money and AIDS awareness in this ex-Soviet republic.

Cheering fans packed the central square Friday in Ukraine's second-largest city, to listen to the legendary British rock band, whose lead vocalist Freddie Mercury died of an AIDS-related illness in 1991.

The open-air concert was also timed to the release of Queen's new album, "Cosmos Rocks," and launch the band's tour that includes Russia, Britain, France and Germany.

"We've been asked to come here and we are very happy to do what we can to raise the awareness of AIDS and also to kick off a new tour," Paul Rodgers, the band's new frontman, told The Associated Press in an interview. "Awareness is the first step towards defeating the problem."

"Queen lost its singer many years ago, so we know that this can affect anybody," said drummer Roger Taylor.

Ukraine couldn't not need that message more. Government officials say nearly 77,000 people have been registered as HIV-positive since the first reported case in 1987. But some experts believe the epidemic here is far greater, with as many as a half-million people - 1 percent of Ukraine's population - infected.

Organizers chose Kharkiv, an industrial city in the east of the country, for its huge student population. The youth are a key risk group for contracting the virus. Volunteers distributed condoms and information leaflets in the city in the run-up to the concert.

But the show wasn't' just a treat for the young. Ecstatic middle-aged Ukrainians also turned up to listen to the songs of their youth, a testament to the unwavering popularity of aging Western rock bands in the former Soviet Union.

Deep Purple gave a concert in the Kremlin earlier this year. Paul McCartney sang in Moscow in 2003 and performed in Kiev in June.

Biology of a smile

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES—Researchers have been entranced by the science of smiling. A smile does more than transmit information; it trips pleasure circuits in the brains of others.

One study published in August in the journal Pediatrics found that an infant's smile sets off an explosion of brain chemicals in the mother. The reaction motivates the mother to do things that will make the baby smile, researchers say, setting in motion a feedback cycle that produces ever-tightening emotional bonds.

Evolutionary biologists believe the smile is hard-wired into the human psyche. They trace its origins to the fear grimace in monkeys, a submissive gesture in which the teeth are bared but the corners of the mouth are upturned.

$5.3 MILLION JUG AP

This undated image provided by Christie's Thursday Sept. 11 2008, shows a Fatimid carved rock crystal ewer made for the court of the Fatimid rulers of Cairo in the late 10th and early 11th centuries. It is further embellished with enameled gold mounts made in 1854, by the French silversmith Jean-Valentin Morel, who was appointed Goldsmith to Queen Victoria in 1852 it is expected to reach in excess of £3 million ($5.3 million) when it is auctioned in London on Tuesday Oct. 7 2008.

THREE WISE GUYS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

Misbehaving pedestrians, sophisticated wise guys, using 'guys' for gals

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Wise Guys: The law says that you should yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. But some of those crosswalks are at lights with a "walk"/"don't walk" signal. It really irritates me when I have a short green light and a pedestrian steps into the crosswalk against the "don't walk" sign. What should I do? Should I just run them down since I have a green light? Or should I stop, let them cross in front of me, lose the green light, be late for my appointment and then call them words that I can't print here?—Drury

Dan: Pedestrians always have the right of way, unless they're *in* the way. I joke! I once got hit by a golf cart, so I don't mean to make light of this topic.

People on foot are in as much of a hurry as you in your car, you maniac. The question you need to ask yourself is this: Is getting to an appointment on time really worth running over someone and killing them? And, seriously, an "appointment"? Who has appointments these days?

Joe: I have only e-pointments.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys: I am new to the column (have only been reading it for about a year). I have to say how disappointed I was to see your pictures in the section! It totally ruined the mental image I had of you (three much younger, backward-hat-wearing recent college grads). You guys looked—do I dare say—sophisticated!?—Jen

Joe: Our pictures have always been a source of disappointment to everyone but our mothers. And probably them, too.

Justin: By the way, if you've been reading our column for a year, then you've been reading it as long as we've been writing it. Our first anniversary is coming up in November.

Dan: We may look sophisticated, but we're not. I'm 3.5 years out of college and an idiot. (I majored in *print* journalism.) Joe graduated from Berkeley at the dawn of the Pleistocene era, but our boss, Deb, once made him run to a dry cleaner because his shirt was too wrinkled for work. Justin has great taste in music and art, but he eats every meal at Popeyes.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys: Is lingerie appropriate for a yard sale?—Don

Joe: Wearing it or selling it?

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise "Guys": With everyone from waiters to store clerks calling both men and women "guys," why isn't there a female "guy" on your panel? There are more women than men, and it seems that our perspective is not represented when answering the crucial, life-changing inquiries that come your way.—Pam

Justin: We are reclaiming the word "guy." No longer will it be tossed around willy-nilly. "Guy" means guy. It's part of our mission statement — or it would be if we had one.

Joe: Also, we asked a few women to join us, and they all turned us down.

Dan: Notably Sarah Palin. We couldn't meet her one condition: that we change our names to Puck, Timber and 'Bou (short for Caribou; that was going to be my name).

Joe: For the record, I was willing to change my name.

■ ■ ■ ■

This week's motto: No question too stupid, no answer too smart (submitted by reader Coleen L. Celentano of Damascus, Md.)

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Daniel Radcliffe finds new voice in 'Equus'

AP

Actor Daniel Radcliffe poses for a picture in New York, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008.

By MICHAEL KUCHWARA
AP DRAMA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Daniel Radcliffe is talking about Alan Strang, the troubled young man he plays in "Equus," the Peter Shaffer drama now being revived on Broadway.

"The brilliant thing about Alan is that you wouldn't notice him walking down the street," says Radcliffe. "He's kind of inconspicuous. He's like Alec Guinness in all those films where he just sort of becomes invisible as soon as he walks into a crowd."

Invisible is not a word you would use to describe Radcliffe, who, at age 19, is probably one of the most recognized young actors in the world thanks to a certain boy wizard created by J.K. Rowling.

Even dressed down in jeans, black leather jacket, gray T-shirt and the slightest scruff of a beard (which does nothing to make him look much older than his nearly two decades), Radcliffe draws stares as he strides confidently through an office-building lobby.

Upstairs in a television studio, he expounds on the character of Strang, the pivotal role in Shaffer's play, which tells the tale of why this youth blinds a stable full of horses. Words pour out, youthful in their enthusiasm and surprisingly adult in their perception.

"Alan is not academically bright but he has amazing intellect," Radcliffe continues, adding that though the boy "might be considered slightly simple and gentle ... he has an incredible imagination."

"Equus" was a big hit on Broadway in 1974 with Peter Firth in Radcliffe's role and Anthony Hopkins portraying the psychiatrist who tries to unlock his secret. Hopkins' part is now being played by Richard Griffiths, who co-starred with Radcliffe in the 2007 London production of "Equus" and who portrays nasty Uncle Vernon in all those spectacularly successful "Harry Potter" movies.

Griffiths and Radcliffe are charter members of a mutual admiration society.

Says the older actor, a Tony winner for "The History Boys," of Radcliffe: "I'm really pleased with him. He's right at this awful stage of moving from being a child actor to no longer a child."

And Radcliffe returns the compliment: "To work with Richard on stage and in a much more intimate way than Vernon in the 'Potter' films is amazing. His intellect is huge. But ... he is not snobbish with the knowledge he has. He shares it and he wants to talk about it. I find him a real joy to be around. For me, it seemed I would have to be really moronic not to take the part."

But there's another reason why he has now tried theater.

"The stage is much more a test of nerve (than film) and seeing what you are made of," Radcliffe explains. "It would be very easy to do simple stuff. It doesn't really interest me that much. Even if I screw up, it's good to know what my limits are. It's good to get a sense of what I can and cannot do.

"Every actor has limits. It's sort of testing out where they are. Luckily, I haven't found them yet. I suppose the thing I've learned is that I think I am more capable than I thought I was," he says with a laugh.

In London, Radcliffe won praise from the critics and audiences for his performance, which includes a brief nude scene, a moment that undoubtedly sold a few tickets to curious "Harry Potter" fans.

"That's the thing about doing it the first time around," he says. "Everyone was wondering if I could ... pull it off. I didn't know whether I could do it (but) I really wanted to ... And I am going to get better this time around as well."

For Radcliffe, training started with his voice. For the past three years, he has worked with Barbara Houseman, a respected vocal coach in England.

"There are a lot of actors who think you can just go on stage and do it—you can't," he says. "You need to project. You can give the most amazing performance on stage but if the audience can't hear you, then it's useless."

Houseman is in New York for the show's preview performances as Radcliffe prepares for opening night at the Broadhurst Theatre on Sept. 25.

"I am a lot more confident about (my voice) being heard now. In London, that was more of a worry. Now there's room for me to do ... to play around with the words and put more color into them, sort of a musicality, to try and give every word its individual identity, I suppose.

"Maybe I am more relaxed this time. I think it's just the fact that I have grown up in the year and a half since we (last) did it," he says. "The other night I got a line wrong, which, for me, was like a dagger because I don't like doing it."

"Equus" is an emotional, disturbing play, a mystery of sorts that steadily builds to a surprising climax. How does Radcliffe unwind from all that intensity?

"I go home and watch The History Channel, which is what I have been doing the last few nights," Radcliffe says with a laugh. That's after he has waded through crowds waiting at the Broadhurst stage door for an autograph or a cell-phone photo op. It's a group Radcliffe is very much aware of.

"Credit your audiences with massive (amounts) of respect because some of these guys see 50 shows a year," he says. Radcliffe admonishes his fellow newcomers to Broadway this season to salute these ticket holders. His advice?

"When you are at the curtain call, smile," he says. "I really object to it when I am sitting there in the theater, watching actors who are in a great play—and they come out and don't smile at the curtain call. I think: 'You are lucky enough to be in a really brilliant play, now show some appreciation for the fact that you are there. Enjoy it.' We're doing 'Equus' and we smile. If you can smile at the end of 'Equus,' anyone should be able to."

Despite his new stage persona, Radcliffe will never be very far away from where he first earned his celebrity—those "Potter" films based on Rowling's seven books.

The movie version of number six, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," is already in the can and comes out in July 2009. Filming of the last "Potter" book—"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" begins after Radcliffe finishes his "Equus" run in February.

"I am sure I will be knackered but I adore filming on 'Potter,'" he says. "I can't wait to get back there."

"Deathly Hallows" will be released as two movies—one in November 2010 and the last in summer 2011. Production is expected to take about 14 months. After that, maybe more stage work.

"In 10 years time, I've no clue where I'll be," Radcliffe says. "Hopefully, still acting. If I'm still acting and still enjoying it, I will be happy. I feel pretty certain that will be the case."

> *The stage is much more a test of nerve [than film] and seeing what you are made of. It would be very easy to do simple stuff. It doesn't really interest me that much. Even if I screw up, it's good to know what my limits are. It's good to get a sense of what I can and cannot do.*

Paparazzi get duped by look-alike Spears at LAX

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Cameras flashing and films rolling, a crowd of paparazzi surrounded a police escort, trying to get the perfect shot of Britney Spears' little sister as she left the Los Angeles International Airport.

Just one snag: The woman wasn't Jamie Lynn Spears.

In what appears to be a case of the old switcheroo, airport police on Wednesday duped paparazzi at the crowded terminal by leading an unidentified woman—wearing sunglasses and looking away from cameras—down an escalator and through a hallway while the real Jamie Lynn and her baby girl safely left the airport from another area.

Police denied any trickery and said they were not escorting the woman.

"All (the officers) did was follow the crowd down to the baggage area," said Sgt. Jim Holcomb of the Los Angeles airport police. "The people they were following assumed that this was Spears because she was blonde."

Despite the denial, a video posted by TMZ showed several officers tucked in tight around the woman, some giving paparazzi repeated warnings to "keep backing up" and "keep moving."

Several in the crowd greeted the woman with, "Hello, Jamie," and "How's the baby?" and later learned she was a decoy.

Holcomb said it's against department policy to provide security for celebrities, but officers were willing to do it after the Spears family asked for an escort for Jamie Lynn, her baby, her mother and her older sister Britney, who ended up being a no-show.

"If there's extenuating circumstances, we can do what we need to do," Holcomb said. "If there was no baby—hey, you're on your own. You're an adult."

He said police were concerned with the possibility of shoving in the crowd of 100 photographers and about 50 Delta Air Lines employees waiting for the group.

Holcomb said celebrity treatment is nearly impossible to get at the airport.

"A lot of times someone will call and tell us that they're coming in with a bunch of cars. They just want to park at the curb, and we always say, 'No,'" Holcomb said. "They want recognition, some attention paid to them."

Holcomb said the incident is under review, but added that such debriefings are not unusual.

"I think someone got the best of the paparazzi this time," Holcomb said.

A message left with Jamie Lynn Spears' publicist was not immediately returned Thursday night.

The 17-year-old actress, the younger sister of pop singer Britney Spears, starred in Nickelodeon's "Zoey 101" and won a Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Award for Favorite TV actress in 2006.

Jamie Lynn Spears arrives at the "Nancy Drew" World Premiere held at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in this June 9, 2007 file photo in Hollywood, Ca. AP

Martha Stewart starts a new TV season back at home

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

BEDFORD, N.Y. (AP)—Martha Stewart is inviting everybody over. The 67-year-old lifestyles guru (whose 153-acre Cantitoe Corners has become a topic of high interest and curiosity among her fans) is welcoming them, and the rest of the world, for an unprecedented visit on Monday's "The Martha Stewart Show" (syndicated; check local time and station).

"So many people ask me, `What's the farm like? What do you grow? What animals do you have?'" she explained to a reporter. "I decided it would be fun to kick off the fourth season at the farm—fun for the crew, too."

Any other weekday, "Martha Stewart" would be originating from Manhattan, often live, in front of a studio audience. But this taped premiere called for mobilizing a staff and crew of 100 (and enough equipment to shoot a feature film) at Stewart's estate, a spread she bought eight years ago in tony, leafy Bedford, about 30 miles north of the city.

Stewart also convened an audience of some 50 friends, neighbors and members of a local garden club. Shortly after 9 a.m. Thursday, they were in place in matching wicker chairs, which were painted in what's known as Traditional Martha Green and arranged in front of the immaculate, stone-and-slate-roofed stable. With the stable as backdrop, her three guest chefs would be preparing lunch for the crowd during the episode's cooking segments.

The job of making sure "Martha Stewart" stays true to the signature style of Martha Stewart—that's art director Anduin Havens' responsibility. (It could hardly have been by chance that those wicker chairs matched the green-striped shirt Stewart wore.)

But Havens said the on-location show had been less demanding for her than the typical in-studio episode.

"This property is gorgeous," she declared. "The best thing I can do is not cover it up."

"It's nice to get out of the studio," said executive producer Bernie Young as he watched Stewart grill molasses-and-chile-glazed pork with chef Chris Schlesinger.

Everything was going smoothly. On the other hand, the day was young. The variables of this shoot—people and food out in nature—meant something could still go awry and rattle Young.

Young, whose first career was as an NYPD detective, shook his head.

"Calm is better," he said with a smile.

Around noon, the program's concluding segment was taped: lunch for all the guests served at a long, beautifully arranged table on a grassy lane.

The out-of-sequence shooting schedule listed more segments, including a gardening scene, for the afternoon.

But before then, Stewart headed back to her house, beyond a manicured pasture and the paddock with several miniature donkeys, to chat with a reporter.

Her French bulldogs, Francesca and Sharkey, rested at her feet as she sized up the first three seasons of "Martha Stewart."

"We started off the show with a lot of celebrity guests, and we still have celebrities," she said. "But we also have incorporated more of our artisans, craftspeople, gardening experts. Viewers really want to learn. Everybody wants to learn something!"

As the economy sours and the buying power of many viewers is threatened, Stewart moving her past the five-month jail term for lying about a stock sale, the show was aimed at redefining its host as more than the starchy perfectionist she seemed to be on her first TV se-

AP
In this image released by The Martha Stewart Show, Martha Stewart stands by a table set for 50 guests at her home in Bedford, N.Y.

noted, "You can do many of our recipes or projects on a budget. We're very conscious of that, and always have been."

But there was more to "The Martha Stewart Show" when it began in fall 2005. Besides

ries, "Martha Stewart Living."

It worked. From the start on "Martha Stewart," she came across as friendly and funny - the person her acquaintances had always said she was.

Now she certifies her playful quality in a new series co-hosted by her daughter, Alexis, and Jennifer Koppelman Hutt.

On "Whatever, Martha!" those sassy chums screen clips from "Martha Stewart Living" and lodge wisecracks about what Stewart says, does and wears. Airing weekly, it premieres 9 p.m. EDT Tuesday on the Fine Living Network.

Tellingly, the series was created by its target. Stewart was inspired by the 1990s cult classic "Mystery Science Theater 3000," where cheesy movies were subjected to ridicule.

Recalling certain moments in "Whatever, Martha!" sent Stewart into a gale of laughter.

"I take myself very seriously, but I also have a sense of humor," she said, adding that each segment in its original form will be available online: "If you really WANT to make that Barbie Doll Cake, you can watch how to do it uninterrupted."

Befitting a communications magnate who named her company Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Stewart is a gung-ho participant in the digital age.

"I'm an early adopter," she said. "I got my first IBM computer in 1982!"

She raved about her Kindle, Amazon's newfangled "wireless reading device."

She is a devoted blogger, documenting her day-to-day whirl in words and photos.

But even as talks up the importance of learning new things and evolving, she draws the line at certain new developments.

"I don't text," she said, her disapproval obvious. "'R U here.' Six letters!"

Cutting corners isn't Martha Stewart's style.

Oprah to ask viewers to support Senate bill

A few weeks after cheering presidential candidate Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention, Oprah Winfrey will take up a different kind of political activism.

Monday's episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" will be dedicated to a Senate bill targeting child predators, according to a release issued Friday by Chicago-based Harpo Productions.

During the show, which will detail the "extent and pervasiveness of child pornography trafficking in America," Winfrey will ask viewers to contact their senators about U.S. Senate Bill 1738, the Protect Our Children Act, Harpo said.

"What you are going to see is going to shock you to the core, but I'm asking you to please not turn away because this is happening in our country, to our children, in the United States every day," Winfrey said in the release.

Harpo said the show will be rated TV-14.

In 1991, Winfrey testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in support of a national database of convicted child abusers. The "Oprah Bill" was signed into law in 1993.

In 2005, Winfrey, who has said she was also a victim of child abuse, launched the "Oprah's Child Predator Watch List" and pledged a $100,000 reward per case for information that leads to the arrest of fugitives featured on her show and Web site. Nine of the featured fugitives have been captured, Harpo said.

Winfrey has been a longtime supporter of Obama's and said she was moved to tears by his acceptance speech at the convention. ***(AP)***

Tina Fey 'likely' to play Palin

NEW YORK (AP)—Tina Fey is "likely" to play Gov. Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live," said a person close to NBC's sketch comedy show.

Fey is "likely" to return to her former show Saturday to play the Alaskan governor and Sen. John McCain's running mate, a person close to the show told The Associated Press on Friday night. The person requested anonymity because the decision has not been announced officially. No further details were available.

Since Palin's entry onto the national political stage, speculation has been rampant over who might play Palin on the program. Many have commented that Fey resembles her.

In an interview earlier this week with The AP, "SNL" executive producer and creator Lorne Michaels said, "The whole world cast her in that role."

The final decision went down to the last minute, apparently. "SNL" premieres Saturday evening with Michael Phelps as host and a planned appearance from Sen. Barack Obama, the Democratic nominee for president.

Fey was a cast member and writer - including a stint as head writer - for "SNL" for nine years before leaving in 2006 to star in "30 Rock," which is also produced by Michaels. On Tuesday, Michaels said that should Fey play Palin, she was unlikely to remain in the part in the long-term, which depending on the election results, could be for four years or longer.

Fey's publicist did not immediately return a call requesting comment.

Writer - actress Tina Fey makes an appearance on MTV's Total Request Live at MTV Studios, in this Tuesday, April 22, 2008 file photo in New York.

AP

CW says Doherty's '90210' adventure might continue

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shannen Doherty has finished filming on CW's "90210," but don't bet that sequel to "Beverly Hills 90210" has seen the last of Brenda Walsh.

"Shannen signed on for four episodes, which she has shot. It was Shannen's way of thanking her fans," said Gary Mantoosh, a spokesman for Doherty. "If the CW comes back with an offer for additional episodes, she's happy to consider it."

In a statement Friday, the series said it would "love for her to do more" and there's "definitely" a possibility that could happen.

In "90210," Brenda returns to alma mater West Beverly High as a theater success who's agreed to direct a school musical.

Meanwhile, the show said that Jennie Garth, who played student Kelly Taylor on the original Fox series and is a guidance counselor on "90210," will add five more episodes to the six she's already filmed.

The next episode, airing Tuesday, has prompted online buzz among fans: In a conversation between Kelly and Brenda, the father of Kelly's 4-year-old son is revealed, and it's someone from her "Beverly Hills 90210" past.

The actresses, who feuded on and off the set of the original show and hadn't spoken in years, have said their reunion on the new series went smoothly despite some pre-filming jitters.

'Lost' star pleads no contest to DUI charges

HONOLULU (AP)—"Lost" star Daniel Dae Kim pleaded no contest to drunken driving charges and was ordered to pay a $500 fine. Whether his character on the popular castaway drama absorbs more punishment remains to be seen.

Kin

Kim, 40, who plays Jin-Soo Kwon, was arrested Oct. 25 when a police officer spotted him driving erratically in Honolulu. His blood alcohol content was 0.168, more than double the state's legal limit.

District Judge William Cardwell scolded Kim, who wore a dark, gray suit and blue shirt in court Thursday.

"You need to understand that 0.168 is more that double the legal limit. It means you were seriously impaired," Cardwell said. "And it just cannot happen again. It's simply too dangerous."

"Believe me, sir, I do," Kim replied.

Kim also had his driver's license revoked for six months and was subjected to a drug-and-alcohol assessment. He was also ordered to pay $212 in court fees and perform 72 hours of community service

"I'm just grateful and relieved that this matter has been resolved," he said after the hearing. "It's been a pretty difficult time for my family and me. But I'm glad I had a chance to take responsibility for my mistake."

Kim was the third "Lost" actor to have been arrested for driving while intoxicated in Hawaii; the other two had their characters killed off on the show soon afterward. The roles of Michelle Rodriguez and Cynthia Watros were eliminated in 2005 after they pleaded guilty to drunken driving.

Judy Davis awarded interest in defamation case

AP

In this image released by USA Network, Judy Davis, stars as Joan McAllister in the USA series, "The Starter Wife.

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Judy Davis won more than $8,000 in interest Friday for damages she was awarded from a newspaper that ridiculed her as heartless for opposing a plan to erect floodlights in a park near her Sydney harbor-side home.

The Australian actress was awarded $113,000 in damages in July after New South Wales state Supreme Court Judge Peter McClellan said articles in The Daily Telegraph of Sydney had impugned her reputation and personal standing in the community by implying she was selfish and unreasonable.

On Friday, McClellan added an extra $8,677 to the award for interest.

Davis, 53, had sued the Telegraph for articles printed in February 2006 about her behavior at a local council meeting. The newspaper said she stormed out of a council meeting where the plan was being discussed after an argument with council officials—something Davis denied in court.

Davis, who has won Golden Globe and Emmy awards, was nominated for an Academy Award for "A Passage to India" (1984) and "Husbands and Wives" (1992).

Traveling man is burdened by intense longing for home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 39-year-old married man. "Lana" and I have been married 10 years. We deal with the usual problems (our son, jobs, money) as a team. I feel blessed to have married my best friend.

My job requires traveling. While seeing new things and meeting new people interest me, when I'm away from Lana and our young son, I suffer from extreme separation anxiety.

Abby, it's not a trust issue. I trust Lana completely, and I know she is taking excellent care of our son. My problem is I miss them terribly. I cry every night that I'm away. When I call home, I break down. Lana understands this is how I am and doesn't judge me. She's always supportive.

Am I crazy? Is this normal? Other guys I know who travel appear to enjoy it. But if I look at a photo of Lana or our son while I'm away, I end up in tears. I don't want to be this way, but it has reached the point where I can't see myself traveling anymore for business.

BAWLING AT THE AIRPORT

DEAR BAWLING: Your level of sadness and stress at being away from your wife and son is off the charts. This is something you should discuss with a licensed mental health professional because I am sure there is a reason for your feeling the way you do. With help you will find out what it is and learn to cope. Please start now so you can decide rationally whether or not it's time for a new career—with all the sacrifice that it could entail.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am the proud mother of four beautiful daughters, ages 9, 16 months and a set of 4-month-old twins. They are lovely, well-behaved children. My problem is that strangers feel compelled to make comments, especially about the younger ones. They say things like, "Whoa! That's a lot of work! I'm glad I'm not you!" or, "You sure don't waste any time!"—and my favorite, "Are you going to keep trying for a boy?"

How rude! They even say to my 9-year-old, "You must have a lot of work to do at home, helping your mom with all those babies." She hears it almost daily.

My child does not raise my babies, and no, I'm not trying for a boy! I hear these comments every time I step out the door with my kids. It's starting to get to me. What should I say to these people without being as rude as they are?

NO DRAMA MAMA IN SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

DEAR NO DRAMA MAMA: Look them straight in the eye and say, "My children are my joy -- and no, I'm not trying for a boy." And when your daughter is asked if she's being exploited as child labor, she should reply, "No, I have too many other things I enjoy doing." It's sad that some people have so little sensitivity—or common sense—and forget that they cannot always say the first thing that pops into their heads.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My family and I recently went to a hibachi restaurant for dinner. The chef was great and the food was OK. We enjoyed ourselves.

When the customers next to us left the table after their meal, the chef looked confused—as if he were expecting a separate tip from the server's. I have never tipped a chef separately. Is that wrong?

SHELLI IN BROOKLYN

DEAR SHELLI: If the chef was cooking your meal to order, then he (or she) should have received a gratuity separate and apart from your server. It is never "wrong" to tip someone who gives you good service—at least not here in the United States.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Procurement & Property Management Office
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Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

Announcement - Invitation for Bid
NMC No.: IFB 08-004

PURCHASE OF THREE (3) NEW AUTOMOBILES

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Services Department (CREES) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of three (3) new automobile vehicles to be delivered on or before September 30th, 2008. A bidder does not have to submit a bid proposal for all vehicles. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. Any bid received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected. Bids rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: **Monday, September 15th, 2008 10:00 a.m.**
PUBLIC BID OPENING: **Monday, September 15th, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.**

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due Monday, September 15th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L 2nd, Floor. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **"Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders** in this procurement. This procurement is funded, wholly, from federal sources. For bidders located **outside of the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu)

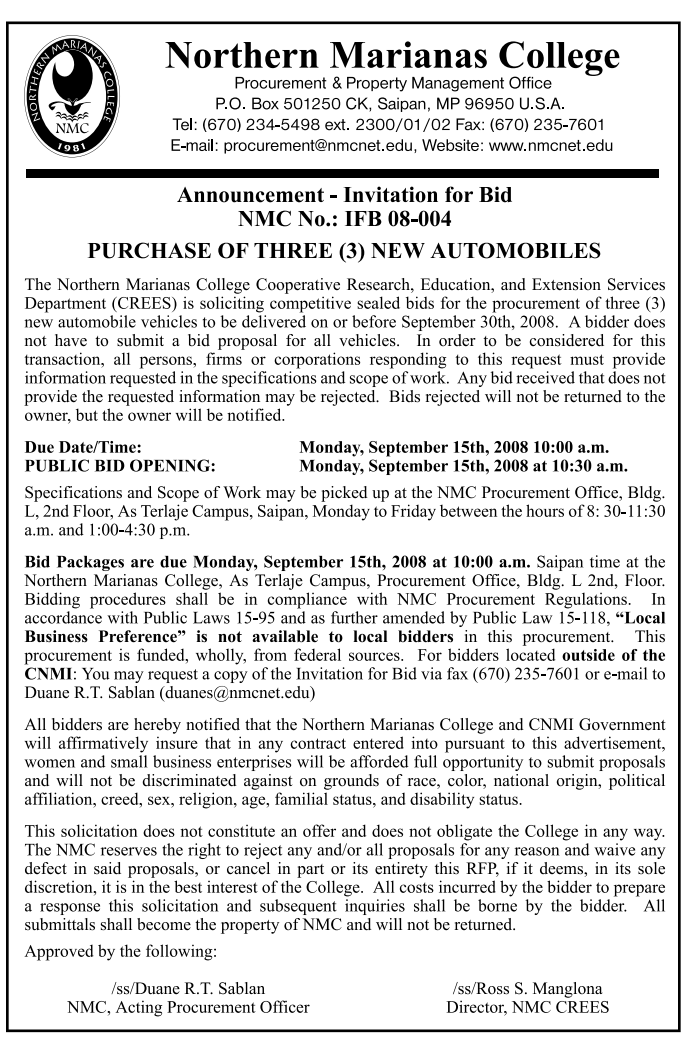
All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/ss/Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/ss/Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES



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Saipan Tribune

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(3) Mechanic (3) Electrician
Please call 235-8973 for more inquiries.

Freshman kicker gives USF dramatic win over Kansas

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Freshman Maikon Bonani kicked a 43-yard field goal as time expired Friday night, giving No. 19 South Florida a 37-34 victory over No. 13 Kansas.

Matt Grothe threw for 338 yards and two touchdowns for USF (3-0) which overcame a 17-point deficit to take a two-touchdown lead before Kansas' Todd Reesing tied the game with two fourth-quarter TD passes.

Reesing had the Jayhawks on the move again when safety Nate Allen intercepted his deep throw in the middle of the field and returned it 40 yards to the Kansas 27 with 30 seconds remaining.

Bonani, making his college debut, kicked the game-winner two plays later.

Grothe won the matchup of undersized quarterbacks who elevated their teams into the national spotlight with TD passes of 21 yards to Taurus Johnson and 37 yards to A.J. Love during an 18-minute stretch in which USF outgained the Jayhawks 346 yards to 15 to climb out of its big hole and take a 34-20 lead.

A week after throwing for a career-best 412 yards against Louisiana Tech, Reesing went 34-of-51 for 373 yards and three touchdowns. Johnathan Wilson caught two TD passes and finished with nine receptions for 160 yards, while Kerry Meier had 11 catches for 120 yards for Kansas.

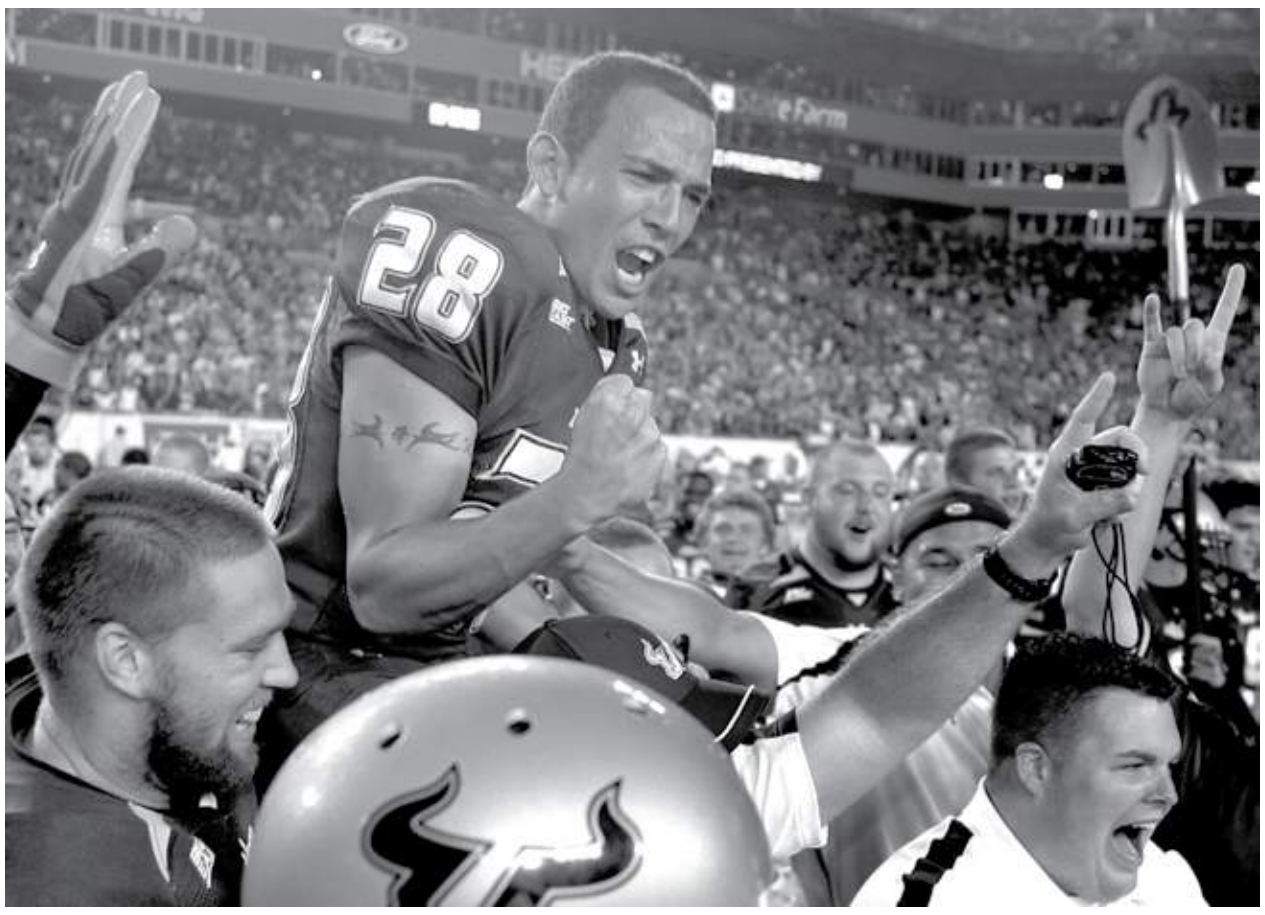
The Jayhawks and Bulls were two of college football's biggest surprises of 2007, with both climbing as high as No. 2 in the country before dropping out of contention for a spot in the BCS championship game.

This season is about establishing that they can be major players on the national stage for years to come.

Kansas lost for just the second time in 16 games with Reesing as its starting quarterback, the other a neutral-site loss to Missouri. The Jayhawks scored on their first two possessions, building a 10-0 lead, and Reesing's 4-yard TD run made it 20-3 late in the second quarter.

Grothe began USF's comeback with a 28-yard TD run.

Reesing, who looked unstoppable until USF limited Kansas to 9 yards in the third quarter, rallied his team with TD passes of 18 yards to Wilson and 14 yards to Angus Quigley with 5:32 remaining.



AP

South Florida kicker Maikon Bonani, 28, celebrates after his final field goal in South Florida's 37-34 win over Kansas in an NCAA college football game Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, in Tampa, Fla.

Buckeyes' Wells is out for game with Trojans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ohio State running back Chris "Beanie" Wells will not play for the fifth-ranked Buckeyes against No. 1 Southern California on Saturday night because of his injured right foot.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel made the announcement late Friday afternoon after the team went through a 40-minute walk-through at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

"We won't have Beanie tomorrow," Tressel told the assembled media just minutes after he told his team of the decision. "He was getting treatment 15 times a day. I guess if looks could kill, he fought me. I just told the team because it's important our guys know what we thought we should do.

"I just think as I listened to the doctors and I thought about the situation that this was the decision that should be made. We've got good kids. We're going to go after them."

The Trojans (1-0) will be playing their first game since an impressive 52-7 victory Aug. 30 at Virginia. Ohio State (2-0) has beaten in-state opposition Youngstown State 43-0 and Ohio University 26-14.

Wells, who rushed for 1,609 yards and 15 touchdowns last season, was injured in the third quarter of the opener, collapsing behind the line of scrimmage and dropping the football shortly after taking a handoff inside the Youngstown State 10-yard line. Without him, the Buckeyes had to rally to beat the lightly regarded Bobcats last weekend.

No details on the injury have been released.

Tressel said early in the week that Wells would play, but it was a different story Thursday, when he said the 6-foot-1, 237-pound junior was doubtful because of lingering soreness in his foot. And then came Friday's announcement.

Tressel spoke briefly with the media, and no players, including Wells, were made available for comment. Wells hasn't spoken publicly since being injured.

Redshirt freshman Dan Herron, sophomore Brandon Saine and senior Maurice Wells shared the carries for Ohio State against Ohio University and are expected to do the same against USC in the mostly highly anticipated September college football game in years.

A sellout crowd of 93,607 will be on hand at the Coliseum, with some paying big bucks to be there. According to ticket distributor StubHub, it's selling tickets for an average of $405 apiece.

"We're going to play whoever they bring," USC safety Kevin Ellison said. "It's time to play. It's time to hone in and get down to it. It's going to be rocking at the Coliseum."

The Trojans have won 38 of their last 39 home games, and haven't lost a nonconference game since 2001, when Kansas State beat them 10-6 in Pete Carroll's first year as the USC coach.

The Trojans went 6-6 in Carroll's first season, but are 71-8 in the past six-plus years. Tressel became the Ohio State coach in 2001 as well, guiding the Buckeyes to a 7-5 record in his first year. They've gone 69-11 since.

Even without Wells, the Trojans face a difficult challenge, according to defensive coordinator Nick Holt.

"They've got a veteran offensive line, four of the five starters are back," Holt said. "They're dangerous no matter what because they're very experienced up front. If you don't stop the run against these guys, they'll get after you, they'll make you pay."

Regarding Wells, Holt said: "The guy's a Heisman Trophy candidate. (But) I don't want to belittle the other guys. They're good, too."

Todd Boeckman, in his second year as the Buckeyes' starting quarterback, passed for 2,379 yards and 25 touchdowns with 14 interceptions last season, and 297 yards and two TDs with no interceptions so far this year. Freshman Terrelle Pryor, one of the most heavily recruited prep players in the country last year, has gained 89 yards on 14 carries and passed for another 35 yards.

Carroll said he expects to see both players.

"They present different situations and different problems," Carroll said. "Terrelle Pryor is a great athlete. This guy is a really big-time player."

Quarterback Mark Sanchez will be making his fifth career start for USC. He passed for a career-high 338 yards and three touchdowns at Virginia, where five tailbacks scored touchdowns for the Trojans.

"We'd better be fast," Tressel said. "I don't care what they're running, they are fast."

Both teams appear loaded on defense, especially at the linebacker position, where Rey Maualuga and Brian Cushing lead the way for USC and James Laurinaitis and Marcus Freeman star for the Buckeyes. All four are seniors.

"Those guys are everywhere," Tressel said of the USC standouts. "It seems like you've been watching them forever. They have a real knowledge of what people are doing on offense. They're obviously physical, and they run like crazy."

Carroll called Ohio State's defense "the best in America."

"This is the ultimate challenge at this point," he said. "How can you play anybody better than the best?"

Regarding the Buckeyes' linebackers, Carroll said: "They're quick agile, athletic. They pressure a lot. They put them in positions a lot to make things big happen, and they do it. We have great respect for what they do and how they play."

Carroll also noted Ohio State's experience, saying: "When you return 18 starters, that's probably the max."

USC is an 11-point favorite over the Buckeyes in the first game between the teams since 1990. USC has an 11-9-1 record in the series that dates to the days of coaches John McKay and Woody Hayes, but has won the last five matchups since Ohio State prevailed 42-21 in the Rose Bowl following the 1973 season.

Eaks shoots 61 to take lead in Greater Hickory Classic

CONOVER, N.C. (AP)—Defending champion R.W. Eaks shot an 11-under 61 on Friday in the Greater Hickory Classic, missing a chance for the first 59 in Champions Tour history when he parred the final three holes.

"I hit my first ball down the fairway, and thought, 'You know what? This is going to be a great day,'" said Eaks, three strokes ahead of second-place Tom Jenkins. "Everything I did seemed to turn out good."

Not quite everything. After making nine birdies and an eagle to reach 11 under after 15 holes, the 56-year-old Eaks had good birdie chances on the final two holes, but missed a 5-foot putt on No. 16, a 13-footer on 17 and a 10-footer on 18.

The 61—the best score this year on Champions Tour—left him a stroke short of tying the record on the 50-and-over circuit.

"I really didn't start thinking about (the record) until I hit my birdie putt on 15," said Eaks, who also missed a 3 1/2 -foot birdie putt on No. 11. "That's when I knew I had a chance. I have no complaints about this day at all.

"I'll think about all the positive stuff from today, but I know that there's no way I'll go out and do the same thing tomorrow."

Taking advantage of rain-softened greens on the Robert Trent Jones-designed Rock Barn Golf and Spa course, Eaks was 7 under on the front nine, with five birdies and an eagle on the par-5 fourth hole.

Eaks got to 11 under with birdies on four of the first five holes on the back nine, including three in row on Nos. 13-15.

Last year, Eaks held off Jay Haas and Rod Spittle by two strokes. Eaks won the 3M Championship this year for his third career Champions Tour title.

Jenkins, a seven-time winner on the Champions Tour whose last win came in the 2006 SAS Championship in Cary, N.C., had a bogey-free 64.

"I wasn't paying much attention to (Eaks), but I knew he had a good round going," Jenkins said. "I didn't know what was going to happen … but I started hitting some really good drives on the practice tee. I felt a good round coming."

Fred Funk opened with a 65, and Senior British Open winner Bruce Vaughan, Tom Purtzer, Tom Kite, Dan Forsman and Tom McKnight shot 66s.

Haas, the 2005 winner, had a 68. Jeff Sluman, coming off a victory Aug. 31 in the First Tee Open at Pebble Beach, opened with a 72

AP

R.W. Eaks tees off on the 18th hole during the first round of the Greater Hickory Classic golf tournament at Rock Barn, Friday, Sept. 12, 2008 in Conover, N.C.

Red Sox end slide with rout of Jays

BOSTON (AP)—Tim Wakefield pitched eight innings to bounce back from his shortest start in 15 years, helping the Boston Red Sox stop their AL East slide with a 7-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday night.

Kevin Cash hit a three-run homer, David Ortiz and Jed Lowrie each drove in a pair of runs and the Red Sox improved to two games out in the AL East behind Tampa Bay. Earlier in the week the Rays beat Boston twice in their last at-bat to avoid falling out of first place in the division.

The Rays' game against the New York Yankees on Friday night was rained out and rescheduled as part of a doubleheader on Saturday.

Toronto lost for just the second time in 13 games, unable to muster anything against Wakefield (9-10), who was pulled without getting a chance for his first shutout since 1997. Four days after lasting just 1 2-3 innings against Texas, the 42-year-old knuckleballer allowed three hits.

Boston and Toronto also will play two on Saturday to make up for an Aug. 15 rainout. The Red Sox took a six-game lead in the wild-card race over Minnesota, which also was rained out.

Rain threatened the Red Sox and Blue Jays, but they were able to finish up despite a 41-minute delay at the start and a drizzle through much of the game.

David Purcey (3-6) allowed three earned runs and six hits with two walks in 6 2-3 innings, striking out six for Toronto. He gave up Lowrie's sacrifice fly in the second and a run-scoring double to Lowrie in the fourth and left after allowing a two-run double to Ortiz in the seventh.

Lowrie had another double in the seventh, and Mike Lowell also had two hits for Boston. Cash homered in the eighth against Jason Frasor to make it 7-0.

David Purcey (3-6) allowed three earned runs and six hits in 6 2-3 innings for Toronto.

AP

Boston Red Sox's Kevin Cash, right, is congratulated by Jed Lowrie after his three-run home run off Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Jason Frasor in the eighth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Friday, Sept. 12, 2008.

Indians 12, Royals 5

In Cleveland, Cliff Lee won his 11th straight decision and moved a remarkable 20 games over .500 with his 22nd victory for the Indians.

Unbeaten in 12 starts since July 11, Lee (22-2) allowed four earned runs in 8 1-3 innings to win his eighth straight start. Lee is the first pitcher to have 20 more wins than losses since Oakland's Bob Welch in 1990.

Jose Guillen homered twice for Kansas City.

Kelly Shoppach had three RBIs off Gil Meche (11-11), Shin Soo-Choo homered and drove in three and Grady Sizemore and Asdrubal Cabrera had two RBIs apiece for the Indians.

Pirates 10, Cards 2

In Pittsburgh, Nate McLouth homered and had a career-high five RBIs to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 10-2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Friday night.

Paul Maholm (9-8) pitched into the ninth inning for last-place Pittsburgh, which snapped a six-game losing streak and won for the fourth time in 21 games.

Rookie Luis Cruz also had three hits for the Pirates, who finished with 14 hits.

McLouth finished a single short of the cycle, hitting a two-run home run in the third, a three-run double in the fifth and a triple in the sixth. The center fielder, who scored three runs, also walked in the first and reached base on an error in the eighth.

Pittsburgh improved to 8-7 against St. Louis, getting its most wins in a season against the Cardinals since 1997.

Mark Johnson drove in a run for St. Louis, which lost its third straight to fall five games behind Milwaukee in the National League wild-card race. The Brewers were rained out at Philadelphia.

Pittsburgh sent 11 batters to the plate during a six-run fifth inning that chased St. Louis starter Joel Pineiro (6-6). Pineiro, who was making his first start since September 1, allowed seven runs and eight hits in four-plus innings.

Maholm allowed the first four hitters to reach base before being removed in the ninth inning. He allowed two runs and seven hits. The left-hander, who came in hitting .103 with one RBI, also had two hits and two RBIs.

The start of the game was delayed 1 hour, 13 minutes by rain.

Marlins 2, Nationals 1

In Miami, Scott Olsen got his first win in 10 starts, Jorge Cantu hit a record-setting home run for Florida and the Marlins beat the Washington Nationals 2-1 Friday night.

Olsen (7-10) gave up one run and six hits in six innings for his first win since July 19th against Philadelphia.

Cantu's solo homer that tied the score at 1 in the fourth was his 25th of the season. The Marlins are now the first team in Major League history to have four infielders hit at least 25. Mike Jacobs (32), Dan Uggla (30), Hanley Ramirez (29) and Cantu have accounted for 116 of the Marlins 188 homers this season.

Florida went ahead 2-1 in the sixth on a throwing error by the Nationals. With Ramirez on second, John Baker hit a sharp grounder to Martis, who threw behind Ramirez to second as he ran to third. Shortstop Cristian Guzman, who was covering second on the play, then threw wildly to third, allowing Ramirez to score.

Nationals starter Shairon Martis (0-2) pitched 5-plus innings, giving up two runs while striking out nine. It was the 21-year-old rookie's second career start. Martis and three Washington relievers combined to finish with 13 strikeouts.

Washington threatened in the eighth with runners on the corners and two outs, but Nelson got pinch hitter Kory Casto to hit a popup.

Cavaliers sign guard Delonte West

CLEVELAND (AP)—Two prolonged contract holdouts early last season hurt the Cleveland Cavaliers, damaging their chances of getting back to the NBA finals.

They made sure it wouldn't happen again.

The club signed restricted free agent guard Delonte West to a two-year contract Friday, a deal that includes a third-year club option for 2011-12.

Financial terms were not immediately known. West and his representatives had been seeking a deal worth $5 millon per season.

West was acquired last season from Seattle as part of the three-team, 11-player megatrade before the Feb. 21 deadline. Filling a major void at point guard, the 6-foot-3 West averaged 10.3 points, 3.7 rebounds and 4.5 assists in 26 starts for the Cavaliers.

He was one of Cleveland's best players during the postseason, averaging 10.8 points, 3.3 rebounds and 4.2 assists in 13 games for the Cavs, who pushed the NBA champion Boston Celtics to seven games before losing in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Cavs didn't want a repeat of last year when forwards Anderson Varejao and Sasha Pavlovic, both restricted free agents, held out of training camp. They eventually signed deals, but when they came back both players struggled getting into shape, got injured and the Cavaliers' chemistry was affected by their absences.

The 25-year-old West can play either position in the backcourt. He will likely back up point guard Mo Williams, who was acquired in a trade this summer from Milwaukee. West could also get time at shooting guard along with Daniel Gibson, another restricted free agent signed by the Cavaliers during the offseason.

"He's a tremendous defender and he's about what we want to be about on that end of the floor," Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry said.

Ferry said West's decision to work out at the Cavaliers' training facility this summer assured both sides that he wanted to stay in Cleveland.

"It was a very healthy thing for the process. It kept the relationship on a good, positive level," Ferry said. "He wanted to be part of what we're working toward. We've said all along that we want Delonte on this team. He's a good player and can make us a better team."

Ferry is excited about Cleveland's potential this season. Williams will give the Cavaliers a second, bona fide perimeter scoring threat to complement superstar LeBron James.

"We have guys who really love to play and love to compete," Ferry said. "We have really good depth everywhere and we have a solid balance of youth and experience."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	87	57	.604	_
Boston	86	60	.586	1 1/2
Toronto	79	68	.541	10
New York	77	69	.527	11
Baltimore	65	80	.448	22 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	81	65	.555	_
Minnesota	80	66	.548	1
Cleveland	72	74	.490	8 1/2
Detroit	70	76	.479	11
Kansas City	62	84	.428	19 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	89	57	.610	_
Texas	72	75	.490	17 1/2
Oakland	67	79	.459	22
Seattle	57	88	.393	31 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	82	63	.566	_
Philadelphia	80	67	.544	3
Florida	75	2	.507	7 1/2
Atlanta	65	82	.442	18
Washington	56	91	.384	27 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	88	58	.603	_
Milwaukee	83	64	.565	5 1/2
Houston	80	67	.544	8 1/2
St. Louis	78	69	.534	11
Cincinnati	66	80	.452	22
Pittsburgh	61	86	.411	27

West Division

Los Angeles	75	71	.514	_
Arizona	71	74	.490	3 1/2
Colorado	67	80	.456	8 1/2
San Francisco	65	81	.445	10
San Diego	57	90	.388	18 1/2

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Red Sox 7, Jays 0
Indians 12, Royals 5
Pirates 10, Cardinals 2
Marlins 2, Nationals 1

GREATER HICKORY CLASSIC SCORES

CONOVER, North Carolina

(AP)—Scores Friday from the Greater Hickory Classic, a $1.7 million (1.2 million) Champions Tour event at 7,090-yard, par-72 Rock Barn Golf and Spa Course

First Round

R.W. Eaks	29-32	61
Tom Jenkins	32-32	64
Fred Funk	32-33	65
Bruce Vaughan	33-33	66
Tom Purtzer	34-32	66
Tom Kite	33-33	66
Dan Forsman	33-33	66
Tom McKnight	34-32	66
Mark Wiebe	33-34	67
Gil Morgan	35-32	67
Mark McNulty	33-34	67
Gene Jones	36-32	68
Wayne Levi	32-36	68
Mark W. Johnson	34-34	68
Mark James	36-32	68
David Edwards	35-33	68
Curtis Strange	33-35	68
Larry Nelson	32-36	68
Jay Haas	34-34	68
Brad Bryant	34-34	68
Rod Spittle	34-34	68
Kirk Hanefeld	36-33	69
Joe Ozaki	34-35	69
Lonnie Nielsen	34-35	69
Keith Fergus	35-34	69
Bob Gilder	34-35	69
D.A. Weibring	33-36	69
David Eger	36-33	69
Mike Goodes	36-34	70
Bruce Fleisher	35-35	70
Ron Streck	34-36	70
John Harris	35-35	70
Dana Quigley	36-34	70
Dave Eichelberger	34-36	70
Clarence Rose	36-35	71
Jim Albus	36-35	71
Massy Kuramoto	34-37	71
Loren Roberts	33-38	71
Bobby Wadkin	35-36	71
Lon Hinkle	37-34	71
Danny Edwards	37-34	71
Gary Hallberg	34-37	71
Pat Laverty	35-36	71
Ron Schroeder	33-38	71
Mike Hulbert	35-37	72
Ken Green	36-36	72
Jim Colbert	36-36	72
Bruce Lietzke	34-38	72
Des Smyth	36-36	72
Jeff Sluman	38-34	72
Jim Thorpe	35-37	72
Leonard Thompson	36-36	72
Mike Nicolette	37-35	72
Tim Simpson	36-36	72
Larry Ziegler	35-37	72
J.C. Snead	35-37	72
Vance Heafner	37-35	72
Mark Balen	33-39	72
Steve Thomas	39-34	73
Chris Tucker	34-39	73
Kenny Knox	35-38	73
Ed Dougherty	37-36	73
Fulton Allem	36-37	73
Andy Bean	37-36	73
Nick Price	35-38	73
Allen Doyle	36-37	73
Mike Reid	36-37	73
Walter Hall	36-37	73
Phil Blackmar	39-35	74
Denis Watson	35-39	74
Jack Ferenz	38-37	75
Chip Beck	38-37	75
Gibby Gilbert	39-36	75
Mike McCullough	35-40	75
Mike Lawrence	38-39	77
Walter Zembriski	38-41	79
Jim Dent	37-45	82
Mark Hayes	38-46	84

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	5	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	3	1
San Antonio Sixers	3	0
Rollers I	2	1
Kontenders	2	2
G-Stars	2	2
C.K. Saints	0	3
Suns	0	3
Rollers II	0	5

NMC inches closer to return trip to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

What was anticipated as a close match turned into a one-sided game with Northern Marianas College downing Autonomous, 88-77, in the playoff round of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/ Business Basketball League Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMC may have won by only 11 points, but it had the game in the bag as early as in the third period when it took a 70-49 lead.

The pennant champion sat out its starters in the fourth quarter, allowing Autonomous to cut the margin to a decent one.

Actually, Autonomous (formerly Office of the Public Auditor), which defeated NMC in last year's finals, had the match in control in the first quarter before fatigue caught its players in the next thee periods.

Autonomous behind Bobby Coldeen and Ponce Rasa took a 20-16 lead at the end of the first quarter.

After a slow start, NMC stepped on the gas in the second canto, outscoring Autonomous, 28-18, to grab the upperhand at halftime, 48-34.

The defending champion could not keep up with NMC's pace, as they had only six players available for the game.

Not even the presence of former NCAA Division I player Richard Brostrom could fill the void left by Autonomous' three gunners—Steve Rasa, Tim Wesley and Ed Diaz—on the team's offense. Rasa and Wesley are off island, while Diaz is nursing an injury.

Mark Wallace and Jose Tumaquip led NMC's breakaway in the second quarter combining for 19 points. Wallace made two triples in the second period, while Tumaquip had one.

Wallace continued to wax hot from downtown in the second half, drilling two more triples, while Mel Manibusan took care of business inside, adding six in the third period.

After 30 minutes of play, NMC was way ahead by 21 points, and Autonomous showed little effort to return to the game, allowing the pennant champion easy layups.

With a comfortable lead in the fourth quarter, NMC coach Rufino started looking for his bench to give his starters the break they needed to prepare for an important game this Thursday.

NMC is a win away from earning a return trip to the finals. They will play the winner of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-PTI tiff for the first finals ticket.

Wallace topscored for NMC with 21 points, while Tumaquip and Jerry Diaz contributed 12 and 10 markers, respectively.

Ponce Rasa led Autonomous with 26 points, while Coldeen added 21.

Autonomous' chances to defend its title now lie on the results of its game against the victor of Tinian-Bank of Guam match yesterday. The defending champion must win on Tuesday to keep its title-defense bid alive.

NMC 88—Wallace 21, Tumaquip 12, Diaz 10, Manibusan 6, Guerrero 6, Villagomez 6, Macduff 4, Villacrusis 4, Tomokane 3, Roberto 2.

Autonomous 77—Rasa 26, Coldeen 21, Camacho 14, Brostrom 8, Aron 3, Castanares 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 48-34, 70-49, 88-77

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMC's Joe Villacrusis pulls off an open jumper against a sloppy Autonomous defense during their playoff game in the PTI caging Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sonics wallop Rollers II to keep unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

As expected, league-leader Southern Sonics demolished the struggling Rollers II, 53-30, in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 23-point win strengthened the Sonics' hold to the No. 1 spot in the team standings, ahead by two victories against the San Antonio Sixers (3-0) and the CNMI Junior Nationals (3-1)

No Sonics players scored in double figures, but the Jesse Tudela-mentored squad had a balanced offense getting eight points apiece from three players and drawing contributions from nine others.

Mark Dela Cruz, Augustine Hocog and Mike Eclevia nailed eight markers apiece.

Dela Cruz was part of the Sonics' starting five and went on to make his presence felt in the first quarter, drilling all his points in that period.

Eclevia added four points to lift the Sonics to a 25-14 halftime lead.

Leo Galarse stated the second half with a triple and added four more points in the ensuing play, while Hocog, who had only one field goal in the first half, chipped in six to help the Sonics cruised to a victory.

The Rollers II recorded their second lowest output in a game. The Zachary Babauta-coached squad had their worst offensive game against the Sixers, making only 28 points.

Against Sonics, the Rollers II's highest scorer—Eugene Manglona—had only seven points. Mike Manglona was the only other Rollers II player to nail more than one field goal, scoring on a layup and a triple.

The rest of he Rollers II players combined for a dismal 16 points.

The loss was the Rollers II's fifth in as any games, keeping them at the bottom of the team standings.

Meanwhile, one team will enter the win column after tonight's game between the Suns and the Chalan Kanoa Saints. The Suns and Saints have identical 0-3 slates.

Sonics 53—Eclevia 8, Hocog 8, Dela Cruz 8, Galarse 7, Ajoste 6, Salas 4, Echon 4, Villanueva 3, Metran 2, Slem 2, Masga 1.

Rollers II 30—E. Manglona 7, M. Manglona 4, Mabini 3, Jon Norita 3, John Norita 2, Diaz 2, Deleon Guerrero 1, Rivera 1, Babauta 1.

Scoring by halves: 25-14, 53-30.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Connie Camacho

PowerAde Banzai Marathon set Sept. 27

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

It's all systems go for the 3rd Annual PowerAde Banzai Memorial Off-Road Half-Marathon and Fun Run, the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation announced early this week.

The event would be held at the Banzai Cliff in Marpi and participants need to register at 5:30am with a fee of $10.

The half-marathon race will start at 6am while the Fun Run begins at 7am.

NMITF race organizer Brad Ruszala said that in keeping with the tradition of the race, all proceeds from each race will be donated to the local athletic community.

Recipients from the first two years were the Saipan Swim Club and Northern Marianas Athletics.

"I'm also looking for volunteers on race day so please contact me via email," said Ruszala, who can be contacted at 287-BRAD (2723).

Ruszala further explained that the race aims to build a locally organized event supported by the local community with a local beneficiary.

"Eventually I would like to see this blossom into one of the CNMI's signature events without having to ask for any money from the MVA (Marianas Visitors Authority) or local businesses," he said.

He said NMITF have been able to rely strictly on in-kind donations from area businesses.

Ruszala said that more companies have been showing great interest to this kind of endeavor.

Aside from PowerAde, the other sponsors are Coca-Cola, Foremost, Subway, Glimpses, PTI, and NMA.

Last year, Eli Torgeson won the 2nd Annual Banzai Memorial Half Marathon in record-breaking fashion with a time of 1:18.04, eclipsing the 1:30.10 set by Yoshi Suzuki the year earlier.

In the women's side, Mamiko Oshima completed the tricky course in 1:41.46, which was slower than her 2006 time of 1:38.09.

Nate Mateo, meanwhile, topped the Fun Run, crossing the finish line in 27.24. Kimiko Hasegawa topped the women's division with a time of 32.46.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Eli Torgeson, left, and Mamiko Oshima topped last year's edition of the PowerAde Banzai Memorial Off-Road Half-Marathon, which will hold its 2008 edition on Sept. 27.

Voyagers clean up Godfathers in Budweiser 8-Ball League

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The PTI Voyagers remained on top in the Agingan Division of the Budweiser Open 8-Ball League by blanking the Godfathers Rock Steady, 4-0, last Tuesday night at the Jonny's Bar and Grill.

It was the Voyagers' 14th win against only two losses while dealing the Godfathers their 10th defeat in 14 matches.

Composed of Roman Rodriguez, Jean Cadag, Luis Fajardo, Jojo Talibong, and Rolly Villanueva, the Voyagers were overpowering on home turf with round averages of 42-46-47 for a total of 135.

Godfathers' Gary Pangelinan, Bill Pangelinan, Sam Babauta, Mike Sablan, and Pat Camacho managed with round averages of 32-28-26 for total of 86.

Over at Round Two Bar and Grill, the second-running SaipanCell Hustlers demolished Islander Rent A Car, 4-0.

The Hustlers, composed of Jerry Soriano, Rowel Mariano, Erwin Gomez, Robert Sanciongco, and Senen Pangelinan averaged 52-45-37 for a total of 144 and are now 12-4, while Islander, which is anchored by Jomer Enriquez, Boyet Sequioco, Don Antonio, Ronnie Ringor, and Rey Pinangay, finished with 15-36-36 for a total of 87 and is in third with 9-7.

Also shining on home turf was Coral Reef Shark Attack via 3-1 count over USSP Wat-Ever.

Coral Reef's Patrick Taitano, Jerry Ayuyu, Vince Mareham, Bill Limes, and Bernard Kileleman compiled average rounds of 35-45-42 for a 110 total edging USSP's Ace Elameto, Rik Elameto, Ed Munandoc, Nolas Kapileo, and Simon Kapileo, who finished their rounds with 42-21-40 for total of 103.

In the Obyan Division, Primos Home Boys won at home over the visiting VFW Warriors, 3-1, after averaging 46-38-45 for a total of 129.

Behind the steady plays of Nolan Cultura, Juancho Mendoza, Jorge Lizardo, Lakandazo, and Frans de Luna, the Home Boys stayed on top of the heap with a 13-3 record.

The Warriors, composed of Nhel Pagaduan, Tawny Barcinas, Shiela Muna, Winfred Camacho, and Reina Bermudes, averaged 36-38-34 for a total of 108 but the team dropped to a 6-10 win-loss card in a tie with Coral Reef Barracuda at fourth to fifth places.

Barracudas' Leonard Sablan, Tomo Tebu Teb, Osome Sablan, Nizer Masayos, and John Peter halved the points with host Krystal Perfect Spotters, 2-2.

The Barracudas averaged 41-40-38 for a total of 119 while the Spotters, composed of Johhny Dugos, Serge Tibudan, Primo Ferrera, Marlo Jumalon, and Eric Piol, had 40-42-37 for 119.

In other match-up, USSP Fotten Palau, anchored by Mei Rengiil, Taylor Watanabe, rick Rengiil, Annie Tesiro, and Ron Chisato, finished with 45-43-52 140 to score a stunning 3-1 win over D'Pirates' Ed Suzuki, Pat Cepeda, John Camacho, Gerrold Guerrero, and Ray Takai, who had 41-42-36-119.

D'Pirates are still in second place with 12-4, Perfect Spotters are in third with 7-9, and Fotten Palau is in sixth with 4-12.

Red Sox end slide with rout of Jays

Tim Wakefield pitched eight innings to bounce back from his shortest start in 15 years, helping the Boston Red Sox stop their AL East slide with a 7-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday night. 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Freshman kicker gives USF dramatic win over Kansas

Freshman Maikon Bonani kicked a 43-yard field goal as time expired Friday night, giving No. 19 South Florida a 37-34 victory over No. 13 Kansas. 25

Shell Marianas leads early winners in KOD qualifier

A PTI batter waits for the ball during their game against On Da Rox in the third qualifier for the 2008 Budweiser King of the Diamonds co-ed slowpitch tournament yesterday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Shell Marianas showed its complete dominance over PTI, cruising to a 9-1 win, even as three other teams advanced to the next round of the winners' bracket during the third qualifying round for the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Modified Co-ed Slowpitch Softball Tournament yesterday at the Capitol Hill Ball Field.

Left fielder Roy Celis sparked his team's scoring binge right at top of the first inning followed by first baseman JJ Laniyo and right fielder JR Suel in the second and third baseman Manny Sablan in the third.

Celis and Jerry Ayuyu also reached home plate after Laniyo, Suel, and Dave Camacho scored in successions in the 6th inning for Shell Marianas, the three-time winner of the Tournament of Champions.

PTI's lone run came at the bottom of the sixth but did not affect much Shell Marianas' bid to top anew the third qualifying round after ruling the first and second rounds earlier this year.

The victory put Shell Marianas in a second-round match against Natibu. The game was played yesterday afternoon and the results were unavailable at press time.

Natibu also won its first match, overpowering On Da Rox, 11-3, to advance to the second round.

The winner between Shell Marianas and Natibu will earn the right to face the winner of the encounter between Saipal and Awel Awel at the resumption of play today.

Saipal scored yesterday's most lopsided win against Redemption, 13-0, while Awel Awel outshone Total Chaos, 13-6.

Total Chaos recovered when it vented its ire on Redemption, 15-5, to remain in the hunt for an outright ticket for the third slot in the Final Four.

With the win, Total Chaos will meet the loser of the Shell Marianas vs. Natibu in the second game at 10 a.m. today.

Redemption was the first team to be eliminated in the qualifier after its defeat to Total Chaos.

Bowling is alive and kicking on Saipan

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REPORTER

SPORTS FOCUS

The success of a particular sport does not depend solely on the success of a player or athlete who plays the game. Sometimes it is weighed based on how it is being run by people who do not even play it. In this case, bowling is a sport that many actually engage in but they do not even hit the sports pages.

Bowling has never been in the Olympic calendar. This puzzles every bowling aficionado because a lot of bowling clubs are holding tournaments almost everywhere else in the world unlike some of the regular Olympic sport.

Here on Saipan, bowling is alive and kicking. Different clubs have their year-round programs for quite a long time. The good thing is that companies and their rank-and-file employees are involved in both running the league as well as playing the game. Oftentimes, this makes businesses happy together even in times of economic slowdown.

Ross Zapanta, who is involved with two bowling associations, gave an outlook about the game as well as updates on the regular tournaments and other programs.

Zapanta is the secretary general, treasurer, and tournament coordinator of the Saipan Bowling Association.

Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings Co., is the current president of the Saipan Bowling Association, which is the national bowling association of the CNMI.

SBA is officially recognized by the international governing bodies like the International Bowling Federation known as the Federation Internationale de Quillieurs or FIQ, World Tenpin Bowling Association, and the Asian Bowling Federation to name a few.

Zapanta explained that SBA runs tournaments (but not bowling leagues) and is the association that has to sanction bowlers who will participate in official international competitions.

Another association that Zapanta is involved with is the Philippine Bowling Association.

PBA started as an exclusive association for Filipinos but is now accepting anyone.

The current president is Milo Orallo while Zapanta is the treasurer and tournament coordinator.

The association also runs leagues and tournaments.

There are four leagues—the Monday Night and Saturday Night Leagues at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose, and the Thursday Night and Friday Night Leagues at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

There is also a Wednesday Night league at SBC that is partly sponsored by Budweiser but is not run by PBA.

The 7th Season of the Budweiser Wednesday night league started last Sept. 1.

MARK RABAGO

On Saipan, bowling is alive and kicking with different clubs having their year-round programs.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Random notes

Over a breakfast of one ripe San Roque mango (yes, there are still a few left), two poached eggs, three slices of Spam and a big scoop of fried rice washed down by four cups of coffee, I offer these totally unconnected caffeine-fueled ramblings.

The exodus from Saipan continues. Saipan's all-time home run leader Tony Camacho has moved to Houston, Texas. His brother Chris, another all-star, has moved to Guam. So has softball star Nick Castro.

There are so many good players who have moved from Saipan to Guam that a new team called 670, comprised of Saipan players led by Jonathan Delos Santos and Francis George was a championship runner-up in a Guam league this summer.

If a team from Guam with all Saipan players beats Saipan, which would be more accurate to say: Guam beats Saipan or Saipan beats Saipan?

We do not need a census to gauge the number of people moving from the CNMI to the States. We can just use the Labor Day Softball Tournament. This year, 17 teams played in Las Vegas. Last year 14 teams played in Boise. The year before that in the Seattle area I believe there was something like 11 teams.

Jonathan Salas, another one of the local baseball talents who moved to greener pastures, made Team Idaho and will be playing in the Arizona Fall Classic, a proving ground for top young players throughout the western USA. The son of Joe and Cathy Salas is now a high school senior in Boise, Idaho and helped his team win the state championship. This summer the infielder also played American Legion ball which is a step up from high school. He was at least good enough for an opposing coach to protest his eligibility because his parents do not live in Boise. It took a favorable ruling on an appeal at the organization's headquarters to get him on the field.

Did you know that with all the beaches in Micronesia, only one island has a beach volleyball league. That would be Saipan. Kudos to the Pacific Islands Club for keeping that alive after Jon Cramer moved (to Guam of all places.) Credit Lindsey Sosovec for that. Interestingly, Cramer has not organized a beach volleyball league on Guam, and instead has become active in water polo.

Only on Saipan: the power was out at my house at the start of the Florida/Miami college football game. So I went to another part of the island to watch the game. Then the power went out there in the third quarter. I called home to see if the power had been restored and when I learned it had, drove back home to see the end. I estimate I spent $4.50 dollars in gas/oil to watch that game on television, plus $3.69 for a bag of chips and $9.00 for a six pack of bottled beer, meaning it cost me $17.19 to see that game. Puts new meaning into pay-per-view.

Charleston Aiken reportedly is trying to get mixed martial arts going in Pohnpei. With the limited economic opportunities throughout Micronesia, the growing sport offers young men a way to make some money especially if they are good enough to go off-island and compete.

Kelvin Fitial for all intents and purposes is an MMA professional. Good for him. Whenever he fights away from Saipan, he carries the CNMI flag into the ring and waves it for everyone to see. If all the baseball/softball players from Saipan did that when they played, CNMI flags would sell out.

The caffeine is starting to wear off. Excuse me while I get one more cup of java.